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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

RICHARD LOVELL EDGEWORTH, in the preface to his daughter's excellent "Popular Tales," calculates upon the authority of Burke, that there are eighty thousand readers in Great Britain, nearly one hundredth part of its inhabitants. He then proceeds: out of these we may calculate that ten thousand are nobility, clergy, or gentlemen of the learned professions. Of seventy thousand readers, which remain, there are many who might be amused and instructed by books, which were not professedly adapted to the classes, that have been enumerated." If we apply the calculation to Ireland, though the number of readers does not bear nearly the same proportion to the population, yet it is hoped they are encreasing, and in particular, that the populous province of Ulster is, at least, not the most defective in cherishing a taste for the useful and substantial parts of literature. On them the Belfast Monthly Magazine must chiefly rely for support, and much of its contents should be adapted to the information and improvement of the middle classes of society. In your first setting out, I hope you will permit a friend to your work to offer a few remarks.

Subjects interesting to the bulk of readers should be treated with plainness and simplicity, and in a manner adapted rather to the comprehension of the classes not professedly literary, than with a view to please the fastidious critic.

In a Magazine something should be done to please all classes of readers. Dissertations on Lucretius and Ovid, will have some admirers. Let them be moderately gratified; but I say, on behalf of the public, give us also more substantial food. In your agricultural, commercial and other monthly reports, we anticipate a fund of information. Procure a stock of original unpublished tours, both foreign and domestic: your model, Phillips' Monthly Magazine is excellent in this respect, and let your pages be often filled with delineation of manners, both at home and abroad. Such sketches, when tolerably executed, please and interest all classes. Attend to the subject of education, it is now receiving some part of that attention, which it well deserves. Give us freely accounts of well conducted institutions for the education of the poorer classes, and be particular in requesting information from your correspondents, on this highly interesting subject.

While you are careful not to make your Magazine too learned or too splendid, do not let it, on the other hand, become too groveling. Rescue the name of a Magazine from the disgrace, into which it has deservedly sunk, in consequence of the manner in which Magazines in Ireland have hitherto, in general, been conducted. Be original, and study to elevate your work to a rank with the respectable periodical publications of London: you see I take the privilege of a friend, and am free in my remarks. Be fastidious in the selection of articles, which you admit into your detached anecdotes. It is soft and slippery ground, in which it is easy to sink. Be careful of the tales you insert; tales, like poetry, do not admit of mediocrity.

Your political retrospect is good and breathes the genuine spirit of liberty: do not be afraid of speaking out with plainness, though with temper; remember your promise in your prospectus "not to lull into apathy." The public prints give us soporific draughts in sufficient quantity; do you dare to fan the sacred flame of liberty, on which, notwithstanding the excesses

which have been committed under its name, the happiness and well-being of nations depend. The French Revolution has produced a species of *reaction* by forcing opinions into a contrary current, and in consequence many have discovered an apostacy from the mild and gentle precepts of genuine liberty. In politics we have many like Jack, in the Tale of a Tub, who are resolved to rush into extremes, and be as unlike the rogue Peter as they can. Let us hope for more tranquil times, and a return of the good old wholesome attachment to the principles of liberty, no longer flaming like a meteor, but diffusing its steady and equable light over the nations.

" Fond impious man, think'st thou yon sanguine cloud,
" Rais'd by thy breath, has quench'd the orb of day?
" To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
" And warms the nations with redoubled ray." GRAY'S BARD.

You are right in declining to entangle yourselves in the rugged path of Theological controversy; there is a certain point in maintaining, or opposing opinions, beyond which it has been justly observed that all is dissonance and noise, but do not be too much afraid to admit free discussion into your work, on Theological, or other subjects, which may tend to promote the welfare of the country; under this head I would class temperate Essays on the subject of Tithes.

Let each party speak freely and modestly for themselves, and give them scope to do so, as long as they keep within the bounds of moderation and propriety. You are not the arbiters of opinions, but you are bound to keep the combatants who appear in your pages within the prescribed limits of gentleman-like and decorous language.

The French, under the old regime, boasted that they were in full possession of liberty, for they could write freely on any subject except religion and politics; if you interdict, indiscriminately, remarks on those subjects, there appears to me an abridgment of the liberty, of a *free press*. Truth is not afraid of discussion, for her brightness is more apparent, the more she is examined; while error, for obvious reasons, shrinks from enquiry. I hope your Magazine will always be an asylum for liberal examination, in which persons holding various and opposite opinions, will be permitted to plead their cause, and so long as this continues to be the case, *and no longer*, I most heartily wish success to your undertaking. C. K.

Postscript.....On some subjects it is presumed it may not be thought prudent to enter into a discussion; I think it should be established as a canon of criticism for the Belfast Monthly Magazine, that no article should be admitted unless a liberty will be granted for a reply. By this means only you can maintain a *free press* and preserve, uninjured, the rights of discussion. It would be ungenerous to publish arguments which delicacy or the temper of the times would prevent from being examined, and publicly canvassed. If such *privileged* opinions are true, they require no additional confirmation, if they are not, you lend your aid to continue the error without giving an opportunity for detection.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

I BEG leave to suggest the following hint to your readers, relative to an improvement which I am apt to think might with little expense be resorted to, in removing the disadvantages which uniformly attend the wind-mill, as its force is usually applied.

The wind-mill under the present circumstances, can never be used with a proper effect in cases where uniformity of motion is necessary, and of course, the benefit resulting from the currents in our atmosphere are considerably curtailed. It would be, I believe, a vain task to undertake the regulation of the motions of a machine, whose impetus depends upon a moving power of irregular velocity; I propose therefore to apply the power of the wind-mill, not *immediately*, but as a means of procuring a *well regulated impetus*, which can be applied to any kind of machinery where regularity of motion is required. My plan is to apply the power of the wind-mill to raising water to a certain height, by connecting it with a *forcing pump*; this water should

be conveyed into a reservoir, and by a convenient opening in the reservoir, conducted to the top of an over-shot wheel.

The reservoir must be so constructed as to contain only a certain quantity of water, by means of channels through which the redundant water may flow off.

The great advantages of this arrangement are:

First....The machine need never be idle, provided there be a sufficient quantity of wind to keep it in motion.

Second....A single cargo of water, consisting of twenty or thirty tons, is all that is necessary to supply the machinery, as the whole may be so constructed as that the water which flows over the wheel may be again conducted into the well intended for supplying the reservoir by means of the forcing pump.

Third....The variable velocity of the wind-mill cannot in any manner affect the equability of motion in the part of the machinery which is moved by the water, as *that* is always regulated by what are in themselves perfectly regular, viz. the weight of water in the reservoir (which is supposed to be at all times the same) and the impetus acquired by the water in falling through the passage from the reservoir to the top of the wheel.

In hopes that this hint may be of service, I remain your sincere well-wisher,

MECHANICUS.

Newry, July 13th, 1808.

Postscript.....Since writing the above I have been given to understand, that the idea of using the power of the wind *mediately* has been proposed to the public before this. I do not regret being deprived of the pleasure of having conceived, what I thought, an original idea; should the hint be taken up and pursued by an individual in the country, my *principal* object will be *so far* obtained.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

FRANKLIN, in the energetic language of D'Alembert, "*snatched the thunder from the clouds.*" Perhaps the sentence may be considered as an excellent epitome of the philosophical character of that eminent genius. He used his knowledge of the arcana of nature, as a means of depriving her of her destructive qualities, and extracting from her such practical rules as might advance human knowledge, or extend the limits of our comforts. This, indeed, is the true province of philosophical research, and I am positive, that he who enjoys the happy quality of making practical inferences from his knowledge, though of a limited kind, is much more serviceable, in a certain degree, to society, than he who is for ever soaring in the *high and rarefied* atmosphere of pure theory. I am much gratified therefore, in finding from your prospectus that you set a proper value on the *useful* part of philosophy; allow me to contribute my mite towards this department of your periodical work.

It has been demonstrated by Sir Isaac Newton, that the solid, which offers the *least resistance* in moving through an elastic medium, must partake somewhat of the shape of the cone, curved slightly in its outline. May not this be applied to the correction of the errors of the pendulum? It is pretty well ascertained that much of its incorrectness arises from the different degrees of elasticity, in the medium through which it moves; if then we substitute the *solid of the least resistance*, in place of the weight usually attached to the rod of the pendulum, it is but reasonable to conclude that much of the irregularity complained of will be done away. If we make the resistance which the pendulum offers to the atmosphere the *least* possible, the irregularities arising from this resistance, and the consequent re-action of the air, must also be the *least* possible*.

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* The consideration of the irregularity of the pendulum, which proceeded from the different densities of the atmosphere put me on devising some mode of removing this serious defect. Perhaps enclosing the whole apparatus of the clock in an iron cylinder, air-tight, and then exhausting the cylinder of air, might be attended with some advantage in this respect; besides, that a clock protected thus from the atmosphere will never require cleaning, and the oil can never *oxidate* the metal. But this plan, it must be remarked, could not be adopted in

I shall be happy to find, through the medium of your Magazine, that this hint has been followed up, by some actual experiments on the subject, as I know there are many persons in your town fully qualified, in every respect, for the employment, and I need not say how anxious I shall be for some account of a series of well conducted experiments on a matter of so much importance.

I am sir, your sincere well-wisher, &c.

MECHANICUS.

Newry, Sept. 8th, 1808.

ESSAY ON IRISH BULLS.

(Continued from p. x. of No. 1.)

JUSTIN also, in describing the warlike character of the Amazons, has the following passage, conveying a statement not altogether unlike the idea of Fielding, "Neque otio, neque lanificio, sed armis, equis, venationibus *exercebant*," in English, "They *exercised* themselves neither in *idleness* nor in spinning wool, but in arms, horsemanship and hunting."

The jokes of Hierocles have been a fruitful source of *Hibernian blunders*, (I speak as an Englishman.) It is needless to insert them here, as I believe they are to be found translated in the fourth Edition of Edgeworth's Essay on Irish bulls*.

Shakespear says, "Cæsar never *did wrong* but in *just cause*." I cannot find that this species of bull has ever been attributed to an Irishman: perhaps there are some bulls, which like certain rights, are unalienable, and cannot be wrested from those who hold high employments in the manor of Parnassus*.

Should poor Paddy dare to talk of a *horse-race* between two *asses*, we should see it immediately in Italics in every British news-paper, from the mouth of the Ply to the Tweed. But let the divine Homer introduce his goddess of wisdom exhorting Pandarus† to promise an *hecatomb* (*i. e.* an offering consisting of an hundred oxen) of white *lambs* to Apollo; could Minerva be, with poetical propriety accused of making a *Bull?* Oh, fie upon it!!

A worthy Friar of the Franciscan order, mentions a circumstance in support of the credit of his favourite saint, which must be believed *quia impossibile*. It is that on a time St. Francis was by some hazard thrown ashore on a *desolate island*, and in the short space of half an hour he converted ten thousand of the inhabitants!!! This too remains to be attributed to an Hibernian.

One of Dryden's plays was damned by the severity of the Duke of Buckingham's witticism upon the following line,

"My wound is *great*, it is so very *small*."

To which the Duke wittily subjoined,

"Then 'twould be *greater* were it *none at all*."

This I consider one of the happiest instances of the *argumentum ad absurdum* on record. The genius of the Duke enabled him to see Dryden's bull intuitively, and his ability instantly provided him with a very natural deduction, which placed the absurdity in the most palpable light.

Sir John Perrot, in his account of the State of Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth, observes, "that more *Englishmen* were born in *Wexford* than in

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house clocks, and perhaps astronomers would find it equally objectionable, as the *beat* of the pendulum could not be heard in *vacuo*. Perhaps the following might be applied with better effect in every respect; exhausting the cylinder intended to contain the clock-work, filling it with carbonic acid gas, in lieu of atmospheric air, and then making it air-tight, the superior density of the former, will increase the sound of the pendulum, the oxidification of the metal is avoided, as in the case of the *vacuum*, and perhaps, too, the dilatation and contraction of pendulum and work may be in a great measure done away, by means of the medium in which they are contained.

* Sir John Carr, in his Tour through Ireland, mentions that a certain Agricultural Society in England having heard much in praise of the said Essay on Irish Bulls, instantly commissioned their Secretary to procure twelve copies of the Essay, in order to examine its contents, and to ascertain whether it might not contain some hints towards the improvement of the horned cattle in England!!!

* This Bull from Shakespear is given on the authority of Ben Johnson. It is but justice to add that Rowe affirms, he has never met with the above line in any copy of Shakespear.

† See Iliad, Book iv. Verse 102.

all Ireland put together!!! Bull upon Bull.

"Are you dead Paddy?" "No, by J----s, but I'm speechless," cries Paddy....Now it is, I must confess, a wonderful faculty in any human being, to possess the power of *utterance*, while labouring under an utter *inability to speak*, for which reason I am at a loss which to prefer, this answer of Paddy, or the original from which the story is made up. In the Timon of Lucian, in the latter end of the fifteenth section, we find the following Dialogue, to which I allude: *Gnatho.* "I will summon you before the Areopagus for injuring me thus."....*Timon.* Stay but a short time, and you shall have an opportunity of *accusing* me of your *murder too!!!* If it be wonderful for an Irishman to speak when stunned, the wonder is increased when we observe that *Gnatho* might possess a similar power, though completely dead.

Timon also, in the warmth of his misanthropy, comes to the resolution of having no intercourse with mankind, and carries this resolution to such unwarrantable lengths, as to make him determine to erect *his own monument, yes, gentle reader, his own monument, over his own dead body;* this, perhaps, might have furnished the foundation of the story of St. Patrick swimming from Port-Patrick to Donaghadee, with his head in his mouth.

"An Irishman was once observed with his eyes shut, sitting before a looking-glass; on being asked the reason; "By my shoul," cries Paddy, "I wanted to see how I look when I am asleep."

For the source of this, see the jokes of Hierocles, No. 10; where he is himself guilty of the blunder which he attributes to his *silly fellow.*

The blunder of Sir Richard Blackmore, in contriving to make the grandsire of Vortigern strip a naked Pict of his doublet, is not of Irish character; it appears to be somewhat akin to the strong expression of antiquity slaying Marsyas a *second time.* Perhaps however, the unfortunate wight had a body of a particular kind, which, like the cork-tree, or the testaceous animals, could produce one skin when the other had fallen off, or was torn from his flesh.

Menippus, in Lucian, vaunts of his tranquillity while sailing across the *Styx.* "For," quoth he, "I was the only passenger of all the others, who did not weep."

Milton observes in like strain, that Adam was,

"*The goodliest of men since born,*
"His sons, the fairest of her daughters, Eve."

And in a monthly publication of the British metropolis, it is somewhere remarked, that Bonaparte is usually the plainest *dressed* man of *his retinue.* There is something unusually ludicrous in a man's walking *behind himself,* yet, upon second thoughts, there is no knowing the extent of what that wonderful man can do, and though he may be too wise and too sensible to be *beside himself,* this may not prevent him from being *behind himself* occasionally.

Here follows a short list of blunders purely British....In the April of 1806, the following bill was stuck up in a window in Cheshire:

"This house to be let for *ever,* or *longer if required.*" Mr. Edgeworth has recorded a bull of the same kind, of an English shop-keeper who endeavoured to recommend a piece of stuff to a lady, by assuring her that it would last as a gown *for ever,* and might be converted into a petticoat afterwards.

Perhaps there is no language in existence or on record, so replete with blunders as the English. A foreigner conversant in the language, but who had previously never heard the expression, "boil the kettle," must be very naturally struck on observing such a direction given to a servant for the first time: he would, I must suppose, conceive the kettle to be some rare esculent, which his friend, in the warmth of his hospitality, is going to treat him with, and which requires only the process of boiling. I can easily fancy to myself the eager curiosity of a guest while the supposed dainty is undergoing the seething process, fully satisfied in his own mind, "that as John Bull is so sharp on his neighbour *Teague,* for the absurdity of his expressions, there can be no blunder in the sentence."

It is true, indeed, that the *ahæna undantia* of poetry, may be pointed

out as an instance of this form of expression, but surely, this is a degree of presumption in *common conversation* to arrogate to herself the privileges of her mistress, who may say in the words of Horace:

——"Meæ (contendere noli)
"*Stultitiam* patiuntur opes.——

She is privileged to snatch a grace beyond the reach of *common sense*, but this is only the privilege of great folks.

Light the pipe, is another of the blunders of the English language, and is just as allowable in the eye of common sense, as if we should say, "*roast the spit*," "*bake the oven*," "*stew the pan*," &c. &c.

"*Light the fire*," here is an expression, for which the figures of speech have entered no defence; it is an instance of *blundering* in expression, which has *no parallel*, and I believe is confined to the English language*. Should it, however, be found in others, its adoption into the English should make them pause before they have the hardihood to accuse us of committing errors of the same kind. They charge us with occasionally making egregious blunders, while their own language exhibits *permanent and regularly adopted bulls!!* I understand it is frequently the practice amongst *swindlers*, &c. &c. in London, when pursued by any of the retainers of justice, to join in the general cry, of "*Stop the thief*;" by which they frequently escape pursuit, and not unusually contrive to fix the attention of the mob on some *innocent person*, who thus is made the means of favouring the retreat of a notorious delinquent. Is the usual cry of "*blundering Teague*," kept up on a more honourable motive, or with a more respectable intention?

In Brewster's edition of Ferguson's Mechanical Lectures, the editor informs us of his invention of a new kind of convex *glasses* intended for microscopes, composed of *turpentine varnish*: surely this is as bad as a *horse-race* between *two asses*.

Mr. Nicholson (the journalist, essayist, encyclopædist, economist, chemist, F.R.S. L.L.D. A.B.C.D, &c. &c. to the end of the alphabet) suggests also *his* new invention of cross *wires* for telescopes, made of a species of *metal* denominated *spider's web**.

It may possibly be remarked here, that these are expressions understood by every body, and that the inaccuracy causes no misunderstanding of the meaning of the author. I have no objection to this apology for this inaccuracy of language. But, "*hanc veniam damus, petimusque vicissim.*" I

* The French form of expression is thus, "*Faites de feu.*" In Latin, "*Extrue ligno focum*" (perhaps the admirers of Virgil may say otherwise). In Italian, the form of expression is the same as in the French. In Greek, Εμβαλειν το πυρ, "*To put (or throw) on the fire.*" It is to be observed here, that I have noticed only the commonly used forms of expression in the different languages above cited.

* The critique on Crabbe's Poems, in the last number of the Edinburgh Review, has started a singular idea, which I would be glad to have elucidated satisfactorily. Talking of the *Knights of the Ferula* (Anglicè *School-masters*) it is observed that "Goldsmith has described him inimitably, so has Shenstone, *with a slight change of sex*, and Crabbe has in two passages followed their footsteps."

Being aware of the metaphysical dexterity of our Caledonian brethren, I have to deprecate a too profuse application of it, in unravelling the mystery, which is unquestionably couched in the above-cited passage. In my humble apprehension, it means simply this, that Goldsmith has described the schoolmaster *inimitably*, and Shenstone has likewise described him *inimitably*, but with this difference that Shenstone's *schoolmaster* is *an old woman*; which difference, according to the Edinburgh Review, is affected by a *slight* change of sex. What species of *slight* change it is that produces this effect, I am at a loss to conjecture, as my logic informs me that whatsoever is not a *differentia essentialis* must be a *proprium* or an *accident*; perhaps, however, the two sexes may in the opinion of the Reviewers, be approximating to each other as they advance in years, without ever absolutely meeting, like the asymptote in the higher geometry, and between an old schoolmaster and an antique schoolmistress the difference may be so *slight* as to be considered (*critically* speaking) a mere *minimum*, *a vox & præterea nihil.*

am only objecting to the limited, ungenerous manner in which this privilege is allowed to be pleaded. An author of eminence, whose situation in life affords him an opportunity of improving his acquirements, is permitted to express himself inaccurately with impunity, while a poor uninformed being, who is liable to any circumstance that can keep his mind in a state of literary darkness, is, by an unjust appropriation of this privilege, become the butt of sarcasm and ridicule, upon a charge, which appears to me incapable of standing a common examination; the usual mode of proving this charge, is by making the assertion, that the Irish are peculiarly hasty in their tempers, but this peculiar hastiness still remains to be proved, and of course its existence is still liable to be questioned. They undoubtedly possess passions, which, like those of other nations, not completely educated, are subject to considerable inequalities. Introduce arts and manufactures into the country, and the asperities of the national character must perforce, be gradually worn off. The Italian proverb, "the devil tempts mankind, but the idle man tempts the devil," might be remembered with advantage by political economists; and to the establishment of systematic industry alone, we must look with any degree of confidence, for lowering the temperature of the national character.

The wit attributed to the lower orders of the Irish, is, I believe, a qualification too generously attributed to them; they undoubtedly possess wit and shrewdness to a more than usual extent, but for the possession of these two, they are indebted rather to their peculiar circumstances. Their poverty obliges them to exercise their faculties incessantly, in devising means to support themselves: this gives them a readiness of thought, which rarely deserts them in any emergency. The excuses of an Irish peasant, the shifts, the evasions he can resort to, provided he be not actually detected in any unfair transaction, might, if generally observed, be justly deemed *proverbial*, but when once he shall be placed in a situation similar to the English mechanic, whenever his thoughts shall be confined within the narrow circle of his daily employment (the making, for example, of pins' points) the neighbouring ale-house, and the adjoining skittle ground, his abilities must consequently lose in their extent, though the substitution of accuracy may upon the whole, be a valuable one in every point of view.

His wit must also suffer in a similar degree. In fact these two qualifications, wit and shrewdness usually accompany a certain stage of civilization amongst the lower orders of every nation. Ignorance produces wit, and necessity shrewdness. Our neighbours, the Scotch, are remarkable for the latter, and I never understood them to be particularly distinguished for the former, which has suffered from the general diffusion of knowledge amongst them, while the scantiness of their means has left the other qualification unimpaired; those who are eternally holding up the Irish peasantry to our view as wits, are only giving us infallible proofs of their state of misery and wretchedness. It was remarked of old, that the places renowned for oracular reputation, were in general the most wretched: it were devoutly to be wished that we did not exhibit so many sad proofs of our similarity of situation to that of Delphos and Dodona!!

Perhaps, sir, you may suppose from my manner, and the positive language I have used throughout this paper, that I am incapable of listening to any thing which may serve to controvert what I have advanced; so far from this being the case, I have to assure you that I have expressed myself in a manner thus positive, rather with the view of promoting discussion, than of putting a termination to the examination of the subject, and though I must, upon the whole, express my scepticism, as to the charge brought against our national character, I am still willing *audire alteram partem*. When our authors of eminence shall be convicted of absurdities such as I have pointed out amongst the writers of other nations, it must be something more than national prejudice, which shall prevent me from acknowledging the justice of the general imputation against us. Yours, &c.

ERRBINO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

STRICTURES ON THE CHARACTER OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.

UNMIXED panegyric cannot be appropriated to man, who is found to be a being of a mixed species, in whom virtues and errors are blended. He approximates nearest to virtue, who is the most free from errors. By praising a character too highly, no good is done, as some writers on morals have alleged, for it is of no avail to hold up a character as perfect, while experience shows it to be unattainable, and consequently not to be imitated. The eulogies of the French academies have been extremely faulty in this respect, and I am inclined to think the account of General Washington, published in your first number is too much in the same style.

General Washington had many amiable qualities, but being a man, he had also his failings. It is greatly to be regretted that the friends of liberty are not more consistent. Much might be written to shew the inconsistencies, and the departure from their own principles of the advocates of liberty, and of the friends of free inquiry.

I have two blemishes to charge on the character of Washington; first that he continued to be a slave-holder, and secondly that when remonstrated with on this subject by the philanthropic and energetic Rushton of Liverpool, he had the *littleness* to return the letter under cover without a syllable in reply.

Some may think that Washington made amends to the cause of humanity by ordering by his will his slaves to receive their freedom on the decease of his wife, and rest satisfied with his excuse that emancipating them during her life would be attended with insuperable difficulties on account of their intermixture by marriage with the dowager negroes, it not being in his power under the tenure by which the latter were held to manumit them. I cannot admit the validity of this excuse; had he no means in his power, either by persuasion or purchase, to prevail on his wife to consent to this act of justice? It appears singular that he should leave it to posthumous execution. But the prejudices of the Virginians ran strong against the emancipation of Blacks, and I am ready to think Washington feared to lessen his popularity by encountering these prejudices, and hence this delay of justice until after his death. I do not envy the *cold* feelings of a man, who could so easily settle the account with himself.

Now as to the second charge, I think it showed a resentment unbecoming a great mind. Edward Rushton had in early life suffered the deprivation of his sight by his kind attentions to this injured race, by undauntedly going down to attend them in the hold of a Guinea vessel in which he was an apprentice, at a time when an infectious disorder had broken out among them. An inflammation in his eyes succeeded and brought on blindness from which after thirty years' suffering, he is only lately partially recovered. It is known that Washington was acquainted with the sufferings that befel Rushton as a martyr in the cause of humanity, at the time when stung with the severe remonstrance, he so unhandsomely returned his letter. By thus wincing, he proved "his withers not unwrung."

To show the temper of the two men, as well as for the sake of the just sentiments it contains, I subjoin some extracts from this letter.

After enumerating the services of General Washington in the cause of liberty, and the happiness of America under her new constitution, he thus addresses him:

"But it is not to the commander in chief of the American forces, nor to the president of the United States, that I have aught to address, my business is with George Washington of Mount Vernon, in Virginia, a man, who notwithstanding his hatred of oppression and his ardent love of liberty, holds at this moment hundreds of his fellow beings in a state of abject bondage. Yes! you, who conquered under the banners of freedom, you, who are now the first magistrate of a free people, are, (strange to relate) a slave-holder. That a Liverpool merchant should endeavour to enrich himself by such a business is not a matter of surprise; but that you, an enlightened character, strongly enamoured of your own freedom, you who, if the British forces had succeeded in the Eastern states, would have retired with a few congenial spirits to the rude fastnesses

of the western wilderness, there to have enjoyed that blessing, without which a paradise would be disgusting, and with which the most savage region is not without its charms; that you, I say, should continue to be a slave-holder, a proprietor of human flesh and blood, creates in many of your British friends both astonishment and regret! It has been said by your apologists, that your feelings are inimical to slavery, and that you are induced to acquiesce in it at present merely from motives of policy: the only true policy is justice, and he who regards the consequences of an act, rather than the justice of it, gives no very exalted proof of the greatness of his character. But if your feelings be actually repugnant to slavery, then are you more culpable than the callous-hearted planter, who laughs at what he calls the pitiful whining of the abolitionists, because he believes slavery to be justifiable; while you persevere in a system which your conscience tells you to be wrong. If we call the man obdurate who cannot perceive the atrociousness of slavery, what epithets does he deserve, who, while he does perceive its atrociousness, continues to be a proprietor of slaves? Nor is it likely that your own unfortunate negroes are the only sufferers by your adhering to this nefarious business; consider the force of an example like yours, consider how many of the sable race may now be pining in bondage, merely, forsooth, because the President of the United States, who has the character of a wise and good man, does not see cause to discontinue the long established practice. Of all the slave-holders under heaven, those of the United States appear to me the most reprehensible; for man never is so truly odious, as when he inflicts upon others that which he himself abominates. The hypocritical bawd who preaches chastity, yet lives by the violation of it, is not more truly disgusting than one of your slave-holding gentry bellowing in favour of democracy. Man does not readily perceive defects in what he has been accustomed to venerate; hence it is that you have escaped those animadversions which your slave-proprietorship has so long merited."

I could enlarge my extracts from this letter of close and just remonstrance, but I fear to trespass too far on the pages of the Magazine.

When this letter is viewed in contrast with the eulogy of D. B. Warden, it may enable us to form a juster estimate of the character of Washington. To those who conceive themselves bound to defend a favourite character through all circumstances, this set off will not be acceptable. To them, as was the case with the man to whom they were originally addressed, the effusions of an honest heart conveying the language of reproof will not be pleasing....

....." They are too rough to suit
"Ears long accustomed to the tuneful lute." N. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE LIVERPOOL BOTANIC GARDEN.

Extracted from an Introduction to a Catalogue of Plants belonging to it, just published.

THE Liverpool Botanic Garden, was established by public subscription, in the year 1800, and opened in 1803. About ten statute acres of land were purchased at a convenient distance from the town, and rather more than one half of them have been appropriated to the garden. Two lodges have been built for the residence of the Curator, a committee room, and other purposes; and the whole is enclosed with a substantial stone wall. The remaining land is sold; and such has been the rapid, and perhaps unprecedented advance in the value of property in the vicinity of Liverpool, that the sale of the half has nearly repaid the purchase of the whole. The land is held by a renewable lease, under the Corporation of Liverpool, who, with the same distinguished liberality and generosity, with which they have encouraged any proposal for the improvement or ornament of the town, have made a free grant to the Proprietors of the reversionary interest of the garden and buildings, " so long as the same shall remain appropriated to the purposes of the present Institution."

The disposition of the garden was suggested by William Roscoe Esq. to whose zeal and active exertion in the dissemination of science, the encouragement of the fine arts, the general

improvement of the mind, and cultivation of those talents which give dignity to character and happiness to life, this Institution owes its existence. The large Conservatory is an elegant and spacious range of buildings, 240 feet long, and in the centre 24 feet high; it is divided into five distinct compartments, heated to different degrees of temperature, adapted to the preservation of plants from every part of the world. There is also a small Conservatory, with bark pits, and an aquarium, of dimensions sufficient to contain, at least, one specimen of every rare and tender aquatic; and a large compartment, with small frames and wooden covers hath lately been appropriated for the preservation of such herbaceous plants as are too tender to endure the severity of our winter. When the funds of the Institution shall be adequate to the expense, it is intended to add a library of works of Natural History, with an apartment for the preservation of collections of specimens of dried plants; of which the Proprietors are already in the possession of about 3000, collected by the late Dr. Forster, in his voyages to the South Seas, with large and valuable contributions from his friends and correspondents.

The situation of the garden is peculiarly favourable, being so near a large sea-port town, from which the communication is direct and frequent to the most remote parts of the earth; and the merchants and masters of vessels are entitled to the thanks of the Proprietors, for their numerous and valuable presents of plants and seeds to the Botanic Garden. They wish also gratefully to acknowledge their obligations to the several Proprietors of private collections; to some of the most eminent cultivators of plants for sale; to many gentlemen who have favoured them with the most rare indigenous plants of Great Britain, discovered in their botanical excursions; to the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin; and to the superintendant of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, for their several valuable additions to their present collection.

To the perseverance, assiduity and zeal of the Curator, Mr. John Shepherd, the Proprietors owe the greatest and most valuable part of their plants; to whose knowledge, accuracy, and industry in the discharge of the several duties of his office, the garden affords the most ample testimony; and they are happy in paying this public tribute so justly due to his meritorious services.

In the ornamental part of the garden where the plants grow promiscuously, a legible large label is affixed to every plant, with the initial letter of the general division to which it belongs, and a number corresponding with the number in the Catalogue under the same division, where in the same line will be found the Latin and English name of the plant, with its class, order, &c. With this Catalogue, as a manual, a visitor, without the trouble of inquiry may discover the name and family of any plant in the garden.

In the first establishment of this Institution, the number of shares was limited to 300; it was afterwards extended to 375; but the funds proving inadequate to the necessary expenditure of the garden, and a very considerable debt having been contracted for the expense of building the conservatories; upon the report of the Committee at the general meeting of the Proprietors, in May, 1807, they unanimously resolved further to encrease the number of shares to 450, by a subscription of the Proprietors only, which subscription was filled up in a very few days; and it is now confidently hoped, that by a liquidation of debt, and a great encrease of annual income, the plans that have been suggested for the improvement of the garden will be fully completed, and the permanency of the Institution effectually secured. *Liverpool*, 1808.

From the foregoing sketch it may be seen, that by the exertions of a few spirited individuals the public taste may be directed to useful pursuits; an example is held out to other places to follow so good a mode of disposing of superfluous wealth. It is also worthy of observation that in the catalogue, the common names of the plants are given in addition to the Latin; a practice worthy of imitation, that unnecessary difficulties should not be thrown in the way of a pleasing pursuit, nor beginners discouraged by an affectation

of learned terms, or led to suppose that the science is a mystery known only to the initiated few.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE POTATOE.

I PROMISED to send, from time to time, such articles as might strike me in the course of my reading. I have been lately reading a report of the committee of the board of agriculture, in London, concerning the culture and use of potatoes. Much of it is, to be sure, not new to Irishmen, who already are practically so well acquainted with the culture and use of this excellent vegetable; but I thought it might not be unacceptable to your readers to have some account of its history, and an analysis of its component parts; as the subject may probably be novel to most of them, and at least it must be acknowledged to be more interesting than the theatricals and other stuff, which so frequently fill the pages of your Irish contemporaries. I hope you will always aim to *instruct*. A READER.

From the Communications of Dr. Wright, of Edinburgh, to the Board of Agriculture.

Solanum tuberosum, Linn. Specie plantarum.

COMMON POTATOE.

History.....The potatoe is a native of America, and was well known to the Indians long before the conquest of Mexico and Peru. Gomara, in his General History of the Indies, and Josephus Acosta, are amongst the early Spanish writers who have mentioned the potatoe by the Indian names, *O Penanck*, *Papes* and *Papos*. Clusius, and after him Gerard, gave figures of the potatoe plant. Gerard was the first author who gave it the name Solanum Tuberosum, which Linnæus and his followers adopted.

In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh, so celebrated for his worth, his valour, and his misfortunes, discovered that part of America called Novembega, and by him Virginia. Whether the admiral was acquainted with the potatoe in his first voyage, or whether it was sent to him by Sir Thomas Grenville, or Mr. Lane, the first governor of Virginia, is uncertain. It is probable he was possessed of this root about the year 1586. He is said to have given it to his gardener, in Ireland, as a fine fruit from America, and which he desired him to plant in his kitchen-garden, in the spring. In August this plant flowered, and in September produced a fruit; but so different to the gardener's expectation, that in an ill-humour he carried the potatoe-apple to his master. "Is this," said he, "the fine fruit from America, you prized so highly?" Sir Walter either was, or pretended to be, ignorant of the matter, and told the gardener, "since that was the case, to dig up the weed, and throw it away." The gardener soon returned with a good parcel of potatoes.

Gerard, an old English botanist, received seedlings of the potatoe, about the year 1590; and tells us that it grew as kindly in his garden as in its native soil, Virginia. The plant was cultivated in the gardens of the nobility and gentry, early in the last century, as a curious exotic; and towards the end of it (1684) was planted out in the fields, in small patches, in Lancashire; from thence it was gradually propagated all over the kingdom, as also in France.

In 1683, Sutherland has the Solanam Tuberosum in his Hortus Medicus Edinburgensis; and it is probable that many others in Scotland cultivated the potatoe in their gardens about that time. It was not, however, cultivated in open fields in Scotland, till the year 1728, when Thomas Prentice, a day-labourer, first cultivated potatoes at Kilsythe. The success was such, that every farmer and cottager followed his example. Thomas Prentice, by his industry had saved 200*l.* sterling, which he sunk for double interest, upon which he subsisted for many years, and died at Edinburgh, in 1792, aged eighty-six years.

Extract from an analysis of the potatoe-root, by George Pearson, M. D. F.R.S.

1. It appears from experiments, that 100 parts of potatoe-root, deprived of its skin or bran, consist of

1. Water, ...	68 to 72	
2. Meal, ...	32 to 28	
	100	100

2. The meal consists of three different substances:

1. Starch or fecula, ...	17 to 15	
2. Leafy or fibrous matter, .	9 to 8	
3. Extract or soluble mucilage,	6 to 5	
	32	28

3. The potatoe-root contains also potash, or vegetable alkali. By estimation, there were ten grains of it in its mild state from 1000 grains of the root; but as of these ten grains, not less than two and a half were carbonic acid, or fixed air, produced during burning, we cannot reckon the quantity of this alkali more than seven grains and a half in 1000 of the root; that is, three-fourths of a grain per cent.

4. The ashes of 1000 grains of potatoe-root, afforded also seven grains and a half, or three-fourths of a grain per cent, of substances not examined, but which are very probably the same substances afforded by the ashes of vegetable matters in general; namely oxide or calx of iron, and of manganese, phosphoric acid united to lime, magnesia and muriate of soda, or common salt.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

"EVERY THING DEPENDS ON THE MANNER."

A Tale from the Spanish.

A PAINTER of considerable ability in his profession, took up his residence in Toledo, with a prospect of making his fortune. His chief excellence consisted in painting on canvas; his works were admirable for the variety of the subjects, the correctness of design, the vivacity of his tints, and the freedom of his pencil; with all this he was poor. Whenever he had finished a painting, on the sale of which he reckoned with confidence, he exposed it to the view of the virtuosi, who loaded him with praises, crouds came to visit him, and heaped the starving painter with eulogiums; but their kindness terminated here; no person ever thought of demanding the prices of his *chef d'œuvres*.

In this situation of his affairs, ready to perish with hunger in spite of all his talents, he discovered that a Frenchman of his own profession, resided in the same neighbourhood; he soon contrived to become acquainted with him, and discovered that this stranger, who contrived to pick up a decent livelihood, was possessed of but moderate talents, which he employed in sketching indifferent pictures, that cost him little trouble in the execution, and which he disposed of at a good price. His usual subjects were extracted from the history of Amadis of Gaul, St. George and the Dragon, St. Alexis or St. Ursula and her eleven thousand Virgins. The Spaniard soon became sensible of his error, in following his own taste, in preference to that of the public, and how much more beneficial it would be to him to conform to that of his customers; he profited by this reflection, and without persisting in the prosecution of his *chef d'œuvres* he set himself to work at compositions which might be more profitable, though less conducive to his reputation. There was not an honest peasant, around the country, who did not come to purchase from him, and the profits of this trade enabled him to subsist, while at his leisure he could apply himself to the painting of such pictures as might confer honour on his abilities, and which his independent situation secured him from disposing of under their value; he was grateful to the Frenchman for his advice, who frequently inculcated to him the maxim, "*Mon ami, tout depend de la maniere.*"

I shall add two instances more, to confirm the truth of this maxim.... The first shall be brief; I have had it from Lopez de Vega. There was a farmer who, without ever learning to read or write, had, nevertheless, acquired a complete knowledge of the whole business of agriculture, but was withal so poorly instructed in the principles of his religion, that he could not even repeat by art, the apostolic symbols. The *Curé* of the parish on being informed of his state of ignorance, refused to administer the sacrament to him, till he had learned them correctly. The honest farmer, who anxiously wished to be extricated from this unpleasant dilemma, after many serious deliberations on the subject, at length hit upon the following means of recovering the favour of his *Curé*.

Within a short distance of his house

was a schoolmaster. Every evening and morning, as the children were coming out of school, he placed himself before the door, and showing them a small piece of money, he promised to give it as a reward to him who should repeat the apostolic symbols with the greatest correctness. Each was anxious for the prize, and by making them repeat it one after another, and paying attention to the continued repetition, he contrived to learn it himself, and succeeded in exciting the admiration of his *Curé* for the correctness with which he recited it, and the manner he had devised in order to accomplish his object.

The other example which I have promised, requires a more extended detail than the two former. I hope, however, that my reader will consider the length of the narration sufficiently relieved by the interest of it.

A lady who dwelt in Cadiz, one day quitted her house, with the intention of taking a walk along the sea-shore, as a means of dissipating in this solitude the anxious thoughts which continually disturbed her mind, and which she dared not confide to another. She had left her carriage at a considerable distance from her, together with her two female attendants whom she ordered to remain behind, and who were unable to conjecture the cause of the disquietude to which their mistress had so completely abandoned herself.

Polydora (such was the name of the lady) was amusing herself looking on the sea, which was terribly agitated; between the waves, which rose and sunk alternately, she observed something successively appear and disappear before her eyes; as the object approached the part of the shore whither it had been driven by the waves, she discovered it to be a young man who was embracing a plank, and who was by this feeble aid supporting himself against the assaults of the sea, which every instant threatened to swallow him up. She was touched at his situation, and felt herself so much excited by compassion, that, without perceiving it, she was on the point of rushing into the water, to tender him her assistance. While she was offering up prayers to heaven for his preservation, he gained the shore, and appeared less dejected with the fatigue of struggling so long against the waves, than with a sadness which was painted on his countenance, on beholding the difficulty with which Polydora recovered from the agitation which she felt for his fate.

The instant he appeared before Polydora, he could scarcely repress his desire of speaking to her, so much was he disturbed and agitated at the sight of her; an embarrassment which she naturally attributed to his consideration of the forlorn state in which the shipwreck had involved him. Knowing no person, unknown, and without resources in a foreign country, she hastened to offer him some consolation, and by dint of examining him she thought she could trace in his features a likeness to one whose remembrance she still cherished. The reflections which she made within herself awakened a curiosity in her to be acquainted with his origin, whence he arrived, and the circumstances which exposed him to his recent perilous situation. The stranger, who had by this time recovered from the surprize which he felt at first seeing her, replied to her request to that effect in these terms: "I will, with pleasure, satisfy your curiosity, provided you permit me to put one question to you, ...I know not whether I am deceiving myself, but you bear a striking resemblance to a person for whose sake I have for three years endured all the rigours of fortune, and have triumphed over every difficulty and danger to which I have been exposed." Polydora in vain endeavoured to assume an unembarrassed air: spite of all her efforts, her eyes betrayed her, and a few tears which she endeavoured to no purpose to conceal, stole down her cheeks. "Seignior," she replied, "what you tell me is perfectly enigmatical to me, and though unacquainted with you, I must confess myself much interested in your misfortunes. Your destitute situation excites my compassion, and cannot prevent me from being convinced of your merit; I shall feel pleasure in having an opportunity of affording you every succour which your destitute situation requires."

The Cavalier was proceeding to

throw himself at the feet of the Lady to express his gratitude, but was prevented by her; she seated herself by his side on the shore, and prepared to listen to the recital of his adventures, which he gave in the following words:

"My name is Lisidor, I was born in Venice, my ancestors have been amongst the noblest of the country: scarcely had I attained my fifteenth year, when I fell deeply in love with a young lady. I need not say any thing in praise of her beauty, it is eulogium sufficient to say that she resembles you so much that I took you for her; her name was Polydora. Never did two love each other with more ardour: I loved and was beloved, and nothing was wanting to perfect our felicity but the approbation of our parents; I asked her of her father in marriage; would to Heaven I had not taken a step which has been my destruction; unfortunately for me, he was at the head of a party, which was opposed by another of which my father was the principal leader. The father of Polydora consulted only the gratification of his hatred, and rejected me with *hauteur* and contempt: his unkindness however made little impression upon me, as my dear Polydora was uninfluenced by her father's resentment, and sought every opportunity of communicating with me, in order to arrange the means of removing every obstacle that stood in the way of our happiness. She had even appointed the hour when I was to gain access to her chamber, through the balcony, by the help of a ladder made of ropes; I kept my promise....having ascended to the top of the ladder, I made the signal, and was immediately admitted. A mistress is always alert upon these occasions; and to me she never appeared more lovely than at that moment; the fear of a discovery and a kind of timidity which she felt at seeing herself, for the first time, alone in company with a man, though conscious of the respect I entertained for her, seemed to have heightened the lustre of her charms. I availed myself of the precious moments which I was permitted to enjoy, and began by removing her apprehensions with respect to the propriety of the step she had taken; I informed her of the ill success of my application to her father. The firmness with which she expressed herself in my favour, exceeded my expectations: "my dear Lisidor," said she, "I will be your wife, and were I entitled to a crown, I would be proud of expressing the same sentiments in your favour; I have only to beseech of you to preserve the secret of our connection, till it shall please Heaven to furnish us with the means of accomplishing our wishes. Let me see you here every night to convince me of your constancy and to receive the assurances of my unalterable determination never to be united to any other man, and as a pledge of the sincerity of my promise, behold my hand."

"I was returning her kindness with all the feelings of gratitude, when her brother, who suddenly knocked at the door, interrupted our interview, and threw us into the most extreme embarrassment. Her only resource was to conceal me under her bed, with my sword in my hand in case of any danger; she then opened the door for her brother, who exhibited some symptoms of displeasure as if he had met with something to disturb him, and requested Polydora to give him some trifle to amuse him. She recovered her courage, on hearing him speak thus, and was going to grant his request immediately, when he heard the sound of his father's foot upon the stairs; the old man who was naturally of a warm temper, had heard his son, and went in search of him, who to avoid the sight of his father rushed upon his own destruction. He chose to conceal himself in the place where I lay, and on espying me, he began to cry out "Treason!" This exclamation put the whole house in motion, but before they could enter the chamber, I had pierced him with my sword. Polydora fainted away, and her weak state afflicted me more than all the dangers with which I was threaten'd. I nevertheless took courage, and whilst the father and servants were thundering at the door for admittance, I contrived to barricade it with the furniture of the room, and finding that Polydora from her present condition could not be removed with safety by the way I should be under the necessity of taking, I passed through the window, and let myself down by the ladder which was still attached to the balcony.

I am wholly unacquainted with the issue of this business, as I returned to my lodgings, only to furnish myself with some money, and to take along with me a faithful domestic, with whom I hastily embarked on board a vessel, which might carry me out of the Gulph.* We met with some gallies, which we unfortunately mistook for friends: I was made a prisoner and during three years have suffered the most inexpressible miseries. In this situation I should have still remained had we not been retaken by a Genoese vessel. Shortly after the capture, the restorer of my liberty was wrecked, and out of one hundred and fifty souls, as well sailors as prisoners which he had taken, only thirty of us were saved. The domestic whom I had taken with me is perhaps amongst the number of those who have been swallowed up by the waves. However, serious as my misfortunes have been, I feel myself fully recompensed for them, in the happiness of having excited your sympathy and compassion."

Scarcely had he finished the recital of his misfortunes, when Polydora, unable to refrain from expressing the feelings which agitated her bosom, burst into a flood of tears. Lisidor observed her state of anxiety, and though he had long since strongly suspected the cause of it, he earnestly besought her to inform him, why his recital had excited in her mind such strong symptoms of sensibility, requested the favour of knowing to whom he was indebted for so much kind compassion, and most earnestly entreated to be permitted to enter into her service, even in the humblest capacity.

Polydora could no longer contain herself; "Yes, my dear Lisidor, I weep with joy, at once more beholding you, and at the pleasure of being convinced from your recital, that you are still faithful to your vows. You see me no longer able to avoid acknowledging myself the same Polydora, whose misfortunes and constancy to her promises made to you, have been equal; believe me, I have never ceased to love you, to bewail your absence, and to partake of your misfortunes. As you have recounted to me a part of the history of your distresses, I shall proceed to inform you of the circumstances which your sudden flight prevented you from being acquainted with."

"As soon as you had escaped from my chamber, where I lay in a state of insensibility, my father burst open the door with a noise, by which I was soon roused from my fit of torpor, to a sense of my miserable situation; and was obliged to listen to the bitter complaints and cutting reproaches of my father, on beholding his only son weltering in his blood. I, in my turn, began to utter such lamentable and piercing cries, and expressed myself in a manner so expressive of my despair, that my father would instantly have sacrificed me to his vengeance, had not the steward, who entered at this moment, hurried me from his presence, and moved with compassion at my deplorable situation, conveyed me to another apartment, where I remained three weeks. At the expiration of this period, my father, whose anger was somewhat abated, came to see me, and such were my terrors on beholding him, that it was with difficulty I could prevent myself from fainting; his whole conversation was on the severity of his fate; he appeared much depressed, and his whole appearance testified the deeply-rooted grief which had taken possession of his soul. He questioned me as to the extent of the connection that existed between us. I answered with courage, that you had never taken the slightest freedom, nor used the most trifling expression that transgressed the bounds of the strictest honour; as scarcely a moment had elapsed between your arrival in my chamber, and the entrance of my brother, whose unfortunate death put an immediate end to any designs you might have entertained. This account in some measure quieted his mind; he even apologized to me for the anger he formerly expressed, and the distress it had occasioned to me; he declared his resolution of pursuing you to Spain, whither he knew you had fled, and vowed that he would lead a wandering life till he had taken vengeance on you, for your designs

* Of Genoa, where the foregoing transaction occurred.

upon me, and the death of my brother. In making no opposition to his resolves, be assured, my dear Lisidor, I was not influenced by any motive but the sincerest love for you; I wished him to take me along with him, in hopes of once more beholding you, and in order to be enabled, if possible, to protect you against his rage. In a few days (which appeared an age to me) he disposed of all his affairs, and quickly arrived at Seville, where we in vain searched for you. I had an uncle at Cadiz. We proceeded thither to visit him, and were received with tenderness: he died about two years since, and as he had never married, he bequeathed his entire property to us. But all his treasures, and all the attentions which our friend was eager to pay to us, were incapable of satisfying my father and me, he was inconsolable at being baffled in his hopes of vengeance, and I, that I could not meet with you again, and again renew to you the gift of a heart eternally devoted to you. Since my wishes are accomplished, grant heaven, that those of my father, with respect to you, may never succeed; and now my dear Lisidor, we must devise some method of enjoying each other's society, without the knowledge of my father, until our hearts, already connected by the ties of mutual affection, shall be united still more closely by the sacred bands of marriage."

During this detail, Lisidor could scarcely restrain the feelings of gratitude with which he felt himself penetrated. After expressing his thanks to Polydora in the tenderest language, they proceeded to concert the means of seeing each other without encountering any hazards. He was pretty well skilled in the French language and understood the art of embroidering in perfection. He therefore determined to give himself out as a French embroiderer, to purchase a house and furnish it with the money presented to him by Polydora. She gave him the name of the street at the rere of her father's house, and bid him repair to the place at midnight, to determine still more particularly upon the measures which should be adopted, and not to leave him wholly unprovided, she took from her finger a diamond of immense value, and putting it in his hand, instantly returned to the place where her carriage awaited her.

The evening was approaching, and Lisidor, after losing sight of Polydora, turned towards the city, and applied to a merchant to whom he recounted the history of his shipwreck; he told him that he had lost every article which he had on board, with the exception of the diamond, which, as it was a family jewel, he was unwilling to dispose of, and would therefore request his assistance in procuring a small sum of money upon it, till he could write to his connections and procure bills of exchange, and that in the mean time he would support himself by the labour of his hands, a situation which he conceived better suited than any other to the fallen state of his affairs.

The merchant, struck with the singular beauty of the diamond, and moved likewise with compassion for Lisidor (for his dress still retained proofs of the shipwreck) invited him to his house, and after supper, they fell into conversation. The merchant, who became every moment more and more charmed with his guest, whose manners plainly marked him as a person of rank, offered him his services, and even made a tender of a sum of money sufficient to establish him in his new occupation.

Lisidor, who was sensible that the offer was made from motives of the purest generosity, was induced to confide, under an oath of inviolable secrecy, to the merchant, his attachment to a lady of rank in the city; that from prudential motives he was under the necessity of concealing his birth and disguising himself under the character he proposed to assume, till some fortunate event might put it in his power to accomplish his wishes. He took care to conceal the name of the lady, and the merchant had promised to observe the most scrupulous silence. At night Lisidor could not commit himself to repose, till he had returned thanks to heaven for the many fortunate events which had occurred to him during the course of the day. He had been again blessed with the sight of his Polydora; he found her still faithful and alive to his misfortunes. In the merchant he pos-

sessed a friend who had entered warmly into his interests, and who had even made him an offer of his purse in case of necessity.

Four days, and as many nights passed over before Lisidor betook himself to the place appointed by Polydora as the rendezvous. During this interval she felt the most extreme despair, and was unable to divine the cause of his tedious absence, and what added to her anxiety, she had no method of procuring information on the subject; a thousand thoughts came across her mind, one time she accused him of inconstancy, again of infidelity, or want of politeness. Prejudiced as she was in his favour, she could not avoid suspecting that some lady in Cadiz might have expressed for him the same tenderness which she herself felt, and had succeeded in detaching him from herself. She was at a loss to conjecture what prevented him from obeying her orders; for with mistresses it is usual to consider in the light of an absolute command, whateer directions they give to a lover, and a neglect in paying the most exact and minute attention to any of their desires is considered a crime of the greatest magnitude. But the anger and suspicions of Polydora were not of long duration. She was the first to defend him to herself; she began even again to bewail the distress and indigence in which he was involved, and the miseries he had the courage to encounter for her sake.

She passed the day without sleep, as she watched with impatience the approach of night, when she hoped again to enjoy his conversation. The night was spent without repose, as it passed without bringing with it the accomplishment of her wishes. To add to the anxiety of her mind, she had no person to whom she could with safety confide the secret of her connection with Lisidor: she could only find comfort in pouring forth torrents of tears. The absence of her lover however was not owing to any indifference on his part; it was at the request of his friend, the merchant, that Lisidor was restrained from quitting the house during the four or five days which he remained with him, for reasons which he did not think proper to explain to him, but which he assured him were of the most serious importance. The obligations he lay under to the merchant prevented Lisidor from opposing his wishes, fearful also lest his expressing too much eagerness on the occasion might excite the curiosity of his friend, and the honour and safety of his mistress might by some chance or other be exposed to danger. He supported himself during the period of his confinement, with a conviction of the goodness of Polydora, who, whatver might be the occasion of his absence, would easily pardon a sacrifice made to one who might be of the most essential service to them in their future designs.

Polydora felt in some measure pleased at the unprovided state in which she encountered her lover; she had taken care through the means of a faithful person, to procure two rich dresses, the pockets of which she had filled with jewels and money to a considerable amount as a means of putting him in a condition to appear in a manner suitable to his rank. These she kept in readiness to present to him whenever she should see him. It was now the fourth night of her attendance at a latticed window, which looked into an unfrequented street, in hopes of seeing her beloved Lisidor, It happened that Mendo, the servant of whose loss his master. Lisidor, entertained little doubts, was saved in company with two others from the shipwreck, and after having, in some measure, recovered from the fatigues which they had suffered in the hut of a fisherman who had harboured them for three days, and supplied them with what clothes he could spare from his scanty wardrobe, they proceeded to Cadiz. On his arrival in the city, while pondering on his distressed situation, certain of the death of his master, and friendless in a foreign land, he was accosted by a stranger, who in a friendly manner, proposed to conduct him to the house of an acquaintance, and thus decoyed him to the unfrequented street where Polydora was watching for her lover. Scarcely had he arrived here, when his conductor with an air of authority, said, "Give me that cloak, I want it." The luckless valet, who had no great appetite

for nocturnal broils, especially as he was without any hopes of assistance, replied very civilly, "Signor, if this be the case, pray accept of it, and may it serve you as well as it has done me, to whom it has been the only shelter from the severity of the weather." The guide disappeared instantly with the cloak, leaving the unhappy Mendo in the deepest affliction, at finding himself alone at such an hour, in a place with which he was totally unacquainted, and he began to give vent to his sorrows by uttering the most piteous sighs.

Polydora, ever watchful, heard the lamentable sounds of the unfortunate Mendo, and supposing them to proceed from Lisidor, began to make a noise. Mendo, on hearing her, resumed his courage. He had heard much of the extraordinary whims of fortune; he called to mind all he had ever heard of the success attending such as were willing to use stratagems on such occasions, and this determined him in making the most of the present occasion. He naturally conjectured that the noise he heard proceeded from some love-sick fair one, who was waiting impatiently the arrival of her lover. Full of this notion he advanced boldly to the lattice, and disguising his voice demanded of the unknown fair one, what she wished with him? Polydora replied, by asking, "Is it you, my dear?" "Yes, madam," replied Mendo. "And what," rejoined Polydora, "has prevented you from coming hither sooner?" "In truth," answered the naked valet, wishing to exhibit his taste for humour on the occasion, "my garments and I have been too busily employed drying ourselves." This answer tended completely to mislead Polydora. She was satisfied she was conversing with Lisidor, and instantly handed through the lattice the cloaths she had prepared, and delivered them to Mendo, with directions to let her see him dressed in them as soon as possible; "For you must be convinced," said she, "that my only enjoyment is your society, and your presence is all that is dear to me in this world."

Mendo, as he received the garments from Polydora reflected that the farce he was playing might, perhaps, be attended with unpleasant consequences to himself, he therefore acknowledged to her, that he was not the person she supposed him to be, but a poor wretch who had been shipwrecked by a dreadful tempest, and that if she wished to present him with the garments, he would feel himself much obliged by her generosity; if not, that she need only say how she would wish him to dispose of them. This discourse threw Polydora into the most extreme perplexity; she was chagrined at hearing language of this kind, when she expected all that tenderness of affection could dictate; "did I not ask you," cried Polydora, "if your name was Lisidor?" "Yes madam," replied the valet, who soon resumed his courage, and conjectured that this must either be Polydora, or some other lady who had fallen in love with his master; he instantly quitted the place, and proceeded to the end of the street, where finding a monastery, he besought their hospitality, and recounted his disasters: his history excited their compassion, and they gave him a lodging for the remainder of the night.

(To be concluded in our next.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTIQUE GOLDEN ROD, LATELY FOUND NEAR BALLYCASTLE, COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

(Communicated by the Rev. L. A. Conolly, Ballycastle.)

WHEN various causes progressively tend to deprive a country of its annals, to depress its national character, and to erase the remembrance of its former importance, it is only by a contemplation of its architectural ruins, or by the casual discovery of such antiquities as declare the grandeur of other days, that a just opinion can be formed of what it once has been, and perhaps there is no country of Northern Europe, to which Ireland, when viewed in this light, yields a priority of rank; her castles, her monasteries, her circular towers, beautiful even in decay, evince the judgment and taste of their former possessors, and many a precious jewel has been found beneath their walls which has long survived the memory of the person it was intended to adorn.

and many a curious relique of elegant workmanship has been found, which bespeaks an early knowledge of the finer arts. Of the latter description the following singular instance has lately occurred in this neighbourhood.

A Peasant, while walking beside a rivulet, near Ballycastle, on the 20th of June last, observed a glittering hook of yellow metal, projecting from a part of the bank where the earth had been recently washed away by the current; on stooping to pull it out, he found it to be the extremity of a rod, thirty-eight inches long, free from rust, and of a bright straw colour; each end was terminated by a narrow hook, inflected in contrary directions; these hooks were massive, about two inches in circumference, and about two inches below the neck of each, the rod was divided into three distinct *virgæ*, which were closely twisted together, in the manner of a toasting fork; the hooks are not included in the length of the rod, which, if extended in a straight line, would measure forty-two inches. Unacquainted with its value, the peasant suffered it to be used as a bauble by his children, until his attention was raised by a person offering more for it than it was apparently worth; he then, with some difficulty, wrenched off one of the hooks, and sent it to a gentleman in Ballycastle, who, on trying it with aquafortis, found it to be entirely of pure gold, and to weigh (in air) twenty ounces and a-half, avoir-dupoise. The workmanship, though neat, is simple, it is void of all those embellishments so commonly used in gold and silver ornaments of the middle centuries; it bears no religious symbol and its original purpose remains for the skilful antiquarian to decide.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HUMANITY TO THE INSANE RECOMMENDED.

PASSING through a neighbouring village some evenings ago, my curiosity was attracted by the tumultuous noise raised by a number of boys; on approaching the place, I perceived that they were diverting themselves at the expense of a miserable maniac, whom they encircled. One dragged him by the rags of a tattered garment that some humane person had stitched round him: another, placed in the most ludicrous situation, a greasy and rimless hat, through the crown of which appeared the locks of his distracted head; and others tempted him with such questions as they knew would irritate him most. What incoherent nonsense, rude ribaldry and horrid blasphemies did they not provoke him to utter! And the more savage his expressions, the more did they excite the merriment of his unfeeling auditors. To the honour of human nature, the countenances of some of the younger branches of this doughty rabble were "strongly marked" with compassion; and I am persuaded that had they been left to themselves, the little hands that teazed the offenceless sufferer, would have been extended towards him in acts of kindness; but their seniors, more sensible of the shame they incurred, and more inventive in cruelty, made them the instruments of the abuses they were too thoughtless to contrive. Some of their parents were present, and though they made a few trite and cursory observations on the levity of youth, they encouraged them to proceed with a half-hidden smile of acquiescence; for, as neither wounds nor bruises were inflicted, they probably stilled the whispers of conscience with the idea that their children were committing only a venial sin.

Would young people allow themselves a slight use of that reason, for the want of which they insult others so much, a moment's consideration might make them compassionate.... Pleasure smiles on their youthful spring, and inexperience suggests that their prosperity will be permanent; but vexation, disappointment, and despair may await them in the paths through which they are to pass. The maid on whose smile their happiness depends, may deceive their hopes through the fickleness of coquetry, or be sold to another through the avarice of her guardians. The wealth for which they may hereafter bravely fight, may be withheld by an unprincipled agent, or be wrested from them by the rapacious plunderer. Their cha-

racters may be calumniated, their honour laid in the dust, their souls may be saddened into melancholy, by the terror-breathing denunciations of the fanatic. Such misfortunes may be the sad source of insanity, deplorable as that which they now deride; and by misfortunes such as these, the insanity they deride was probably occasioned.

But in persons more advanced in life, it is peculiarly out of character to be careless of the wild wanderer, and every act of unkindness he receives from them, must meet our decided abhorrence. Perhaps, while they bolt their door on him, a forlorn pair, whose parental feelings are at least as strong as theirs are disconsolately wondering, whether he shelters on straw and sack-cloth, or traverses the lonely mountain. Perhaps an affectionate wife ponders in solitude on the comliness of the person they inhumanly disfigure with stripes; while her children tell their playmates, how their father became crazed, stole from home, and has hitherto eluded the most diligent search. As old age approaches, the understanding will become weak, and the memory irretentive; and can they who permit their children to insult the insanity of a stranger, expect that they will show much respect to the dotage of a parent?

An ancient writer has observed, that, "*oppression* makes a wise man mad;" and had he said that *abuse* has the same tendency, the observation would have been equally true. Had the author of the divine aphorism just now quoted, been insulted and wronged in the manner that the insane are, in almost every village, I question if all his wisdom could have withheld him from the phrenzy of desperation. It is strange that people who are anxious to have them clothed and sheltered, should think so little of amusing themselves by provoking them to anger; never imagining that such provocations frequently repeated, render almost impossible that recovery they so devoutly wish. It is likely they do so, either through a desire of triumphing in the superiority of their own understandings, or from a supposition that the objects with whom they sport are ignorant of the treatment they receive; but that it makes a deep impression on their minds is apparent from the circumstantial account which in their lucid intervals they can give of it. Indeed, a law that by the severity of its penalties, would restrain the populace from irritating the insane by insult, would be as salutary as that which prevents them from injuring the persons and properties of their wiser fellow-creatures.

For my own part, I have always looked upon such people as the most pitiable of all earthly objects; though it be difficult enough to attend, with gravity, to their wild witticisms, and ridiculous reveries; I have always checked myself whenever I happened to smile or laugh, in the soul-saddening presence of such uncommon misery. Alas! what are the unreal personages with whom they suppose themselves surrounded, and the mock-majesty with which they invest themselves, but the wild phantoms of imagination, hovering round the benighted ruins of intellect, once bright and glorious? The mendicant who cannot now tell me his name, had perhaps transcribed the quintescence of volumes on the tablet of his memory; and he who cannot now write a legible word might have been once a man of erudition, who at college bore the prize from every competitor. When I hear boobies raise the hue-and-cry after an unfortunate fugitive, I glow with indignation, conscious that they would have given Swift, Lee and Collins, similar abuse; and when I see a son of sympathy comforting and consoling him, I please myself with the idea that it was in this manner Sterne treated the poor distracted Maria.

O.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SPRING WHEAT.

Triticum Æstivum.

THE following account of Spring Wheat, communicated to the Board of Agriculture in London, by Sir Joseph Banks, is recommended to the attention of farmers. It is, however, by no means designed that the exertions of the cultivator should in the least degree be relaxed in raising wheat by autumnal sowings; a practice that

long experience has proved to be most convenient and advantageous to husbandmen; yet, as adverse seasons sometimes occur, whereby considerable tracts of arable land still remain unsown, the substitution of spring wheat appears to be an object of great importance to the public.

Real spring wheat, the *Triticum Æstivum*, or summer wheat of the botanists, is a grain too tender to bear the frosts of the winter, but as quick in progress, from its first shoot to ripeness, as barley, oats, or any other spring corn.

It is well known on all parts of the Continent, and much used in France, where it is called *Ble de Mars*, from the season in which it is usually sown; and in some provinces *Bleds Tremois*, from the time it takes between seed-time and harvest; in Spain it is called *Trigo de Marzo*; in Portuguese *Trigo Tremos;* and in German, *Sommer Waitzen*; all which names mark distinctly the difference between this and winter corn.

It does not appear from the older books on husbandry, that it was at any former period much cultivated in England; the more modern ones are in general silent on the subject of it; they mention, indeed, under the name of spring wheat, every kind of winter wheat, which will ripen when sown after turnips in February. This is probably the reason, why the real spring wheat has been so little known; agriculturists in general, conceiving themselves to be actually in the habit of growing spring wheat, when in reality, they were substituting winter wheat in its place, have been little inclined to inquire into the properties of the real spring wheat, when they had an opportunity of so doing.

In the lower parts of Lincolnshire, where the land is most valuable, and consequently the most subject to mildew, spring wheat has been long known, and it is now cultivated to a great extent. Mr. Sers, of Gedney, near Spalding, has claimed a premium of the Board of Agriculture for the largest quantity of land sown with spring wheat, in 1805; his quantity is two hundred and forty-one acres (one hundred and forty-nine, Irish) and there is no reason to suppose, that he added a single acre to his crop on account of the Board's offer. He is a man, who, by his skill and talents in agriculture alone, has raised himself to opulence, and possesses a considerable landed estate, for which he is certainly in part indebted to the free culture in spring wheat during the last thirty years.

Mr. Sers sows spring wheat from the 25th of March till the 1st week in May; for a full crop he sows fourteen pecks on an acre (about twenty-four stone to the Irish acre) and expects to reap four quarters (eleven barrels, two stone, and two pound, to the Irish acre) if he sows grass seeds (clover, rye grass, &c.) under it, which is very generally practised, he sows nine pecks (fifteen stone, and a half, to the Irish acre) and expects three quarters, (eight barrels, six stone and a half) in return. He finds it thrive nearly equally well on his stiff and his light land; and has found it by experience, to be exempt from the mildew or blight, and free from all damage of the grub or wire worm.

The farmers in South Holland, where Mr. Sers resides, uniformly declare that they have been many years ago compelled, by frequent attacks of the mildew or blight, to abandon almost entirely the sowing of winter wheat, and that they then substituted spring wheat in its place, and have used it ever since: they believe it to be wholly exempt from the mildew or blight. In the neighbourhood of Horncastle, where I live, the land is either light or sandy, or composed chiefly of Norfolk marle, called in that neighbourhood white clay. Such sand, though tolerably productive of barley and grass seeds, is not to be compared with the rich and fertile tracts of South Holland; and yet the culture of spring wheat has of late years increased, and is now increasing fast, because the millers begin to understand its nature, and cease to undervalue it as they did at first.

The grain of spring wheat is considerably smaller than that of winter wheat; in colour it resembles red lammas so much, that it may be mixed with that grain, and this mixture will do no injury to the seller, as spring wheat weighs heavy, nor to the buyer, as it yields better at the mill than from its appearance might be expected; sixty pounds a bushel, is about its usual weight. Mr. Sers' of this year weigh-

ed six pounds, and he has sowed some mixed with less than half of red lammas, at the usual market price of the winter wheat of the last harvest, though the winter wheat is better in quality this year, and the spring worse than usual.

In the countries best acquainted with its culture, spring wheat is preferred to all other corn for raising a crop of grass seeds. This is owing to the small quantity of leaf it bears, less perhaps than any other corn, and to the short duration of the leaf, which fades and falls down almost as soon as it has attained its full size.

In cases where red wheat has been damaged by the wire worm, a mischief which seems of late years to have increased in this island, spring wheat appears to hold out an easy and simple remedy. In the first week of May the ravages of the worm have abated somewhat; if then the seed of spring wheat is at that time dibbled, or only raked with a garden rake into the naked spots left by the worm, though it will not attain the growth, at which the worm begins to prey upon, till he has changed his state for that of a winged beetle, it will certainly be ripe as soon as the winter wheat, and may be threshed out and sold with it; or if it is preferred, may be reaped separately, as the appearance of the ears, which in the Lincolnshire sort have longer beards or awns than the river or cone wheat, will point it out to the reapers in such a manner that no great error can happen in separating it from the lammas.

In years of scarcity this wheat offers a resource, which may occasionally be of the utmost importance to the community; of this the board were very sensible last spring, when they offered premiums for the increase of its culture, which have had the effect of rendering it much more generally known than otherwise would have been the case. The price of wheat seldom advances much, even in very scarce years, till a considerable portion of the crop has been thrashed out, and the yield of it by this means actually ascertained; but this does not take place till the seed-time of winter wheat is wholly over; no speculation, therefore, of sowing an increased quantity of that grain can be entered into during the first year of a scarcity; but before the end of April, the question of the average yielded of the preceding crop will be generally known, and, when it is much below the usual proportion, there can be no doubt that a large quantity of spring wheat will be sown if the seed can be easily procured.

It is rather melancholy to reflect, that the progress of agricultural improvement has in some instances advanced in the inverse ratio of the utility of the novelty recommended to the public. Tobacco and potatoes reached Europe at much the same period; the time when Virginia was settled by Sir Walter Raleigh; but an ineffectual firmaum was issued by the Great Mogul against the use of tobacco, long before potatoes were commonly cultivated in the garden of England; and that nauseous weed reached the furthest extremities of the Chinese Empire, and in spite of the obstacles placed by the Government of that country against the introduction of novelties of any kind, long before potatoes had occupied any extensive portion in the field-cultivation of this island.

Lest the revival of the culture of spring wheat, even under the liberal protection it has received from the Board, may be retarded from this principle, which seems to be inherent from the nature of mankind, it may be necessary to state here, that in the neighbourhood of Boston and Spalding, in Lincolnshire, the cultivation of it is now fully established, and likely to continue; from either of these places, therefore, the seed may at any future time, as well as at present, be obtained without difficulty; and as there is a water communication between these towns, and as Boston is a sea-port, it may always be brought to London, or any other maritime part of England, at a small charge.

Sometimes when dearth recurs, which will occasionally happen as long as the manufacturing interest insist on keeping the price of corn, in a plentiful harvest, below the actual cost of growing it, speculations on the sowing of spring wheat, may be carried so far as to raise the price of seed, till a saving in it becomes a matter of political as well as of

economical importance; an experiment is therefore added, to show that spring wheat will succeed as well by dibbling as by broad-cast, made in the spring, of 1804.

Mr. Wm. Showler, an intelligent farmer near Rivesby, in Lincolnshire, dibbled four packs and a half of spring wheat on one acre and two roods of middling land, (being in the proportion of 5st. 2lb. to the Irish acre) which had borne turnips the winter before, and had no extraordinary preparation for this crop; the rows were eight inches asunder; the holes four inches asunder, and two inches deep; two grains were put into each hole.

The produce of the one acre and half, from the quantity of four and a half pecks of seed was seven quarters, viz. 5st. 2lb. of seed to the Irish acre, producing twelve barrels, 19st. 6lb. a fair crop, and as much at least as could have been expected from eighteen or twenty-one bushels, sown broad-cast on the same land.

By a careful analysis in the wet way, conducted by Professor Davy, of the Royal Institution, the following results have been obtained from different kinds of wheat:

From	gluten	starch	Insoluble. parts
100 parts of best Sicilian wheat	21	74	5
do. Spring wheat of 1804,	24	70	6
do. good English wheat, 1803,	19	77	4
do. blighted wheat of 1804,	13	43	44

From this inferior analysis we may fairly deduce, that bread made of the flour of spring wheat is more nutritious than that made of winter wheat, because spring wheat contains a larger proportion of the gluten, or half animalised matter; and also that a miller ought not to deduct from the price of spring wheat more than two per cent, on the money price of winter wheat of the same weight, as the excess of the weight of insoluble matter, or bran, is no more than two per cent, when compared with good English wheat.

Bread made of spring wheat is rather less white than that made of the better sorts of winter wheat; but it is allowed to be more palatable in Lincolnshire, where it is best known.... Both these qualities are probably owing to the excess of gluten contained in it.

SPRING WHEAT.....BY MR. PETER SERS.

To the Hon. Board of Agriculture.

I most humbly beg to inform you, I have this year grown two hundred and forty-one acres of spring wheat, and a good crop, and expect four quarters per acre, except a part of it that is laid down for grass seeds, and on that I sow about nine pecks per acre, which I will venture to say has more than three quarters per acre, only on all our land we keep under plough, we sow fourteen pecks per acre. I have several sorts of soil, such as sandy, and very light earth, also mixed earth, and very strong clay, and it seems to suit every sort; and we sow from the 25th of March until the 4th of May; and the destructive worm, which has done me the greatest damage on my winter wheat, sown in autumn, which the worm takes when we only begin to sow our spring wheat, and it has not been hurt.

We sowed a deal last year, and not any of it hurt with the fatal mildew, which nearly destroyed the two hundred and fifty acres (one hundred and fifty-four Irish) of winter wheat, and by the help of our spring wheat, which was so good, we mixed it together, and greatly helped the sale. I have taken the liberty of sending Sir Joseph Banks samples both of last year and this, in the straw, &c. and I hope his honour will show you; and any further information I can offer to the honourable committee, will give me the greatest pleasure. From your most obedient and humble servant,

PETER SERS.

Gedney, Lincolnshire, Sept. 28, 1805.

This is to certify, that on the 20th of September, 1805, I finished measuring for Mr. Sers, of Gedney, two hundred and forty-one acres of spring wheat.

FRANCIS GRANT,
Surveyor, Long Sutton.

Mr. Sers' Letter to Joseph Banks, Bart.

I have, by the coach, sent your honour samples both of spring and winter wheat, of this year, 1805, now threshed, which your kindness will show to the Board; and of our large

quantity cannot see it is injured; it weighs as heavy as any red wheat we have grown. We have sold a short time back 200 qrs. (three hundred and fifty barrels Irish) to a merchant, mixed three-fourths spring wheat to one-fourth of red winter wheat, at full an average price with us of any quantity or quality sold in our markets to merchants; and we weighed several cooms, that is, four bushels, and they weighed seventeen stone and a half neat each, which is more than any wheat of mine has before weighed; though the corn is not large, is full, and goes close together. I fully think with you, that if winter wheat be damaged, it would be a good way to sow some spring wheat by a man about Lady-day, in the vacant places, and rake it in, as it is sure to be fit to cut with the winter wheat, and, when threshed together, no body can tell it.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON CALORIC.

CALORIC, a name given by the late writers on chemistry, to that substance by which the phenomena of heat are produced, and which had before been denominated *igneous fluid, matter of heat, &c.* "There are, perhaps, few subjects," says an eminent writer, "respecting which a more remarkable versatility of general opinion, has been evinced, than with regard to the existence or non-existence of this principle. Are the physical effects of heat produced by the operation of a material fluid, *sui generis*, or is heat merely an affection of matter, consisting in internal vibrations and collisions of its particles, or in some other mode of corpuscular action of which we are ignorant, and is there consequently no such thing as caloric?" The materiality of heat appears to have been the most general opinion, till about the time that Lord Chancellor Bacon wrote his treatise, *De Forma Calidi*, where he considers "heat as the effect of an intestine motion, or mutual collision of the particles of the body heated; an expansive undulatory motion in the minute particles of the body, by which they tend, with some rapidity, towards the circumference, and at the same time incline a little upwards." And this opinion has been adopted with various modifications by Descartes, Newton, Boyle, and almost all the mechanical philosophers of that and the succeeding ages.

The chemists, however, who were most conversant and best acquainted with the effects of this agent, seem to have still retained a strong notion of the materiality of heat, and in consequence of their daily improvements in chemical science, it became again the most prevailing theory; till lately, the experiments of Count Rumford, which, by endeavouring to prove, that heat is imponderable and capable of being produced *ad infinitum*, from a finite quantity of matter, have again thrown some doubt on the subject. It is a well-known fact, that when water freezes, it gives out such a portion of heat during its coagulation, that if it were imbibed by an equal quantity of water, at the temperature of 32° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, the latter would be heated to between 140° and 170°. Hence it would appear, that, if heat were a ponderable substance, a given quantity of water would become lighter when frozen in a vessel hermetically sealed. Count Rumford accordingly made this experiment by the help of a balance of extreme accuracy; but the result was, that the ice produced, appeared to be of precisely the same weight as the water had originally been, at the temperature of 61° viz. 4214.28 grains; from which he infers, that all attempts to discover any effect of heat on the apparent weights of bodies will be fruitless.

The following experiment was also made by the Count, to show the possibility of producing an infinite supply of heat, from a finite quantity of matter, viz. He caused a cylinder of brass to be turned 7¾ inches in diameter, and 9. 8 inches long, which was bored like a cannon with a calibre 3. 7 inches in diameter, and 7. 2 deep, so that the bottom was 2. 6 inches in thickness. The hollow cylinder contained 385¼ cubic inches of brass, and weighed 113.13lbs. avoirdupoise. By means of the engine used for boring cannon in the arsenal of Munich, a blunt borer or flat piece of hardened steel, 4 inches long, 0.63 inches thick, and 3½ inches

wide, was kept with one of its extremities, whose area was 2 one-third square inches, pressed against the bottom of this hollow cylinder, on the inside, with the force of about 10,000lbs. avoirdupois, whilst the latter was turned about its axis with a velocity of 32 revolutions in a minute. The cylinder was in one experiment covered on the outside with a coating of flannel to prevent the access of heat from the atmosphere; in another the borer was made to work through a collar of leathers, so as to prevent the access of air also to the interior of the bore; in a third the whole cylinder was immersed in water, the borer still working through a collar of leathers so as to prevent its access to the interior of the bore; in a fourth, the collar of leathers was removed, and the water had access to the bottom of the interior of the cylinder where the friction took place.

The result was, that in all these experiments, heat was generated by the friction in sufficient quantity to cause about 26½lbs. of ice-cold water to boil in two hours and a half, or at about the same rate as that at which it would have been produced by nine large wax candles; the capacity of brass for heat, or its power of producing it by friction, did not appear to be diminished, and it seemed as if this generation of heat would have gone on for ever if the friction had been continued: the source was inexhaustible.

Now, as any thing which an insulated body or system of bodies can continue to supply without limitation cannot possibly be a material substance, the Count's inference is, that heat is not of this description, but that it must be an effect arising from some species of corpuscular action amongst the constituent particles of the body. It appears, however, that neither of these experiments, nor any that have yet been made, are sufficiently conclusive in favour of the immateriality of heat. For in an indefinite series of material substances, each a thousand times rarer than the preceding, though the weight of the heaviest be imperceptible by the nicest balance, the lightest may, nevertheless be ponderable. Have we any instrument that could discover the weight of a fluid that was only a million times lighter than atmospheric air?

The latter experiment, is perhaps, more difficult to answer satisfactorily; and yet, notwithstanding all the precautions that were taken by the Count, it is by no means demonstrative that the heat evolved was not derived from some exterior source; for there is no absurdity in supposing that a body may be receiving *caloric* in one state, or at one part, and giving it out at another; we have an instance of this in the electric fluid, the materiality of which is admitted by every one. "With regard to this part of the subject," says the same ingenious writer whose sentiments we have already adopted, "it ought not to be omitted, that in another experiment made by the Count, heat was found to be communicated through a *Torricellian vacuum*. Now it is manifest that in such a vacuum there could be nothing to communicate *motion*. Heat, therefore, must be material: the conclusion is almost physically certain.

"Without further insisting, however, that it can be conclusively demonstrated, that there really exists such a substance in nature as caloric, it at least appears upon the whole, that in the present state of our knowledge, we ought rather to consider it as a material substance, because of the two theories, that which supposes it to be so, is infinitely the more intelligible, the more agreeable to the analogy of nature, and the less exceptionable; and we shall accordingly regard it as an elastic fluid, *sui generis*, capable of pervading, with various degrees of facility, all the solid bodies with which we are acquainted, and of being imbibed and retained by them in different proportions according to their respective degrees of specific attraction or capacity for it."

It will readily be admitted, that from the elasticity and power of pervading other substances which is evidently essential to this fluid, that whenever a body is by any means charged with a greater quantity than is proportional to its mass and capacity, when compared with other surrounding bodies, the surplus will be communicated to those neighbouring bodies, until the density of the fluid

in every body in the system becomes equal: this state of density or compression of the caloric contained in a body, constitutes what is commonly called its temperature.

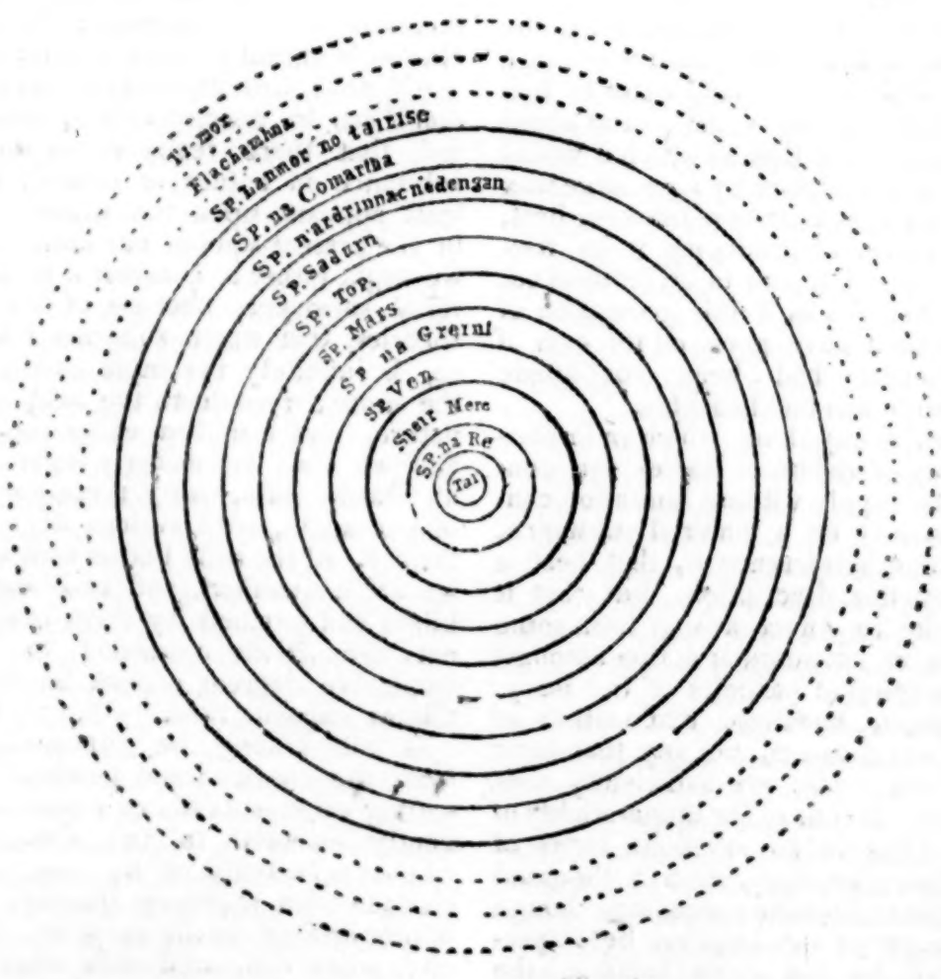
All the properties of this element show that its particles are infinitely small, have no sensible adhesion to each other, and that they have a very rapid, continual motion in all directions, which appears to be essential to them. From what has been said, caloric appears to be a material substance essentially fluid, and many facts concur to prove, that it is the only body which can with propriety be called so in nature; consequently the cause of fluidity in others. The effects of cohesion, a no less universal principle than gravity, are restrained and modified by the agency of caloric; and, as without inertia, all the celestial bodies would be drawn together into some one part of extended space, so, without *heat* all matter in the universe would become a congealed and concrete mass, and fluidity, organization, vegetation and life could have no existence. G.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

On the Oriental Emigration of the Irish Druids.....Proved from their knowledge in Astronomy, collated with that of the Indians and Chaldeans. From fragments of Irish MSS. By Lieutenant General Vallancey, L.L.D. F.R.S.M.R.I.A. &c.

CHAP. II.

THE following scheme is copied from the manuscript in Mr. Astle's possession, to which I have added two other spheres, viz. the *Flachamhnas* and the *Ti-mor*. In the centre is *Ta-lamh*, the earth (Heb. Talam.)



The names of the spheres are partly Latin, and partly Irish: those of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are Latin, although we shall hereafter

find they had Oriental names for these planets; that of Venus has been already explained (No. i. page 17) Jupiter is expressed by JOP; in Irish *Peitir* is a thunder-bolt, whence probably the name Jupiter. JOP may be derived from the Chaldee YAPA, to be beautiful, as his other name in Irish is *Fursa*, i.e. fire.

The word *Speir*, the heavens, a sphere, an orb, is Chaldean; (Chaldean SPHEIR, a spire, a sphere; Persic, *sipihur*, the celestial sphere, the heavens) and from the celestial alphabet used by the Chaldeans to mark the constellations in the saphir, which were afterwards used as numerals, and then as literary characters, the same word *Sepher* came to signify writing, numeration, a book, a letter; and to this alphabet I think Jacob refers, when he bade his children *read in the book of heaven what must be the fate of you and your children:* and Isaiah also compares the heavens to a book rolled up.

Next to Saturn is the *speir n'ardrinnac n'Edengan, i.e.* the sphere of the high stars of paradise (Chaldean *gan h'Eden, i. e.* the garden of Eden, paradise, the dwelling and happiness of the blessed after this life. Arabic, *Eden*, paradise; Pers. *Ginnah*, paradise (Herbelot.) It is also named in Irish *Aingan* and *Daingan* (Arab. *Ain*, paradise.) *Gort alain*, the garden of joy; *Abhalgors aoibhinn*, the pleasant orchard; *Lubhgoir solamhsach*, the pleasant fruit-garden; *Parathais*, the ecstacy of fruits: which are all synonymous.

Madagascar, it is said, was peopled by a colony of Phenicians: amongst other words, the natives have preserved *danghitoi* for paradise. *An danghitsi zaie mahita ambracale Zanhar.* In paradise we shall see God continually. (Madagascar catechism, printed at Rome 1763.)

The celestial alphabet being intended to represent these constellations, in which they placed their paradises or gardens of pleasure, what could be more natural than to name each character, after a certain tree, which we shall show was the case, in another part of this essay. Being names of trees, they were all consonants; and when adopted for literary characters, it became necessary to mark the sound following each consonant: the Chaldeans did so by points below the character; others placed the marks upon the letters, as in the Sanscrit, Ethiopic, &c, and this appears to me to be a strong argument for vowel points having been introduced when these characters became numerals and letters, that is, with the origin of letters.

The next sphere is the *Com-artha*, the signs of the Zodiac, i. e. the stationary signs; Chal. *Kom*, to rise, to stand; *Aorth*, a sign; as in Genesis, 1. 16. *Sheni maorth* two luminaries, which the paraphrast explains by *two signs.* In the Gloss. Rab. Salam, *Aurtha* is translated the rising of the stars; from hence I think the Druidical *airith*, to number, i. e. to cast up by the signs, which were used as astronomical characters, and afterwards as numerals, (whence Greek, *Arithmos*, number;)....The Chaldee *Kom* signifies a station, place, a space in which a body stands: the parts of the heavens or airs have the *Kom* or station (Hutchinson,) Arab. *Takoum* an arch of the Zodiac, (Castellus) Chal. *Mekom*, the Torrid Zone, which is the Sun's station, (Bates) *Kawm*, in Arabic, signifies a mansion or dwelling, whence probaly *Kawm ardha*, the halls or palaces or mansions of the sun; and *Keam*, a station. *Masoudi*, an Arabian author, says that the word *Ardha* signifies the Zodiac, but the more antient Arabs named it Thoul. Hence we find in Irish *Comhardha* and *Tallagrian*, the Zodiac, the halls or mansions of the sun; whence the Persians named *burja asuman*, the house or station of the sun.

The Irish commonly write it *Comartha ar neamh*, the signs in the heavens. The adjunct *neam* is probably Sanscrit, as we find it in the Tibetan. *Nama*, the heavens (Georgius Alphab. Tibet.) *Comhartha* is also used at this day, as *Cur do comhartha*, put your mark, sign this paper, which the illiterate peasant always does with a cross. Lhuyd has extracted a paragraph from some antient Irish manuscripts, which merits attention; it is in his Archæologia, Tit. x. and was probably a fragment; but as it alludes to the *Tau*, so often mentioned in scripture, it is worthy of notice; the words are, *tangadar fos an focailsi bhid gan comhartha ar bioth as Eirin, go Huilidhe, agus ataid an tri phunc accomhalta an diaidh cin,*

dochionn nac bhfuil riachdanachdorra, i.e. there came also a people without marks or signs of any kind, out of Iran, to the Jews, and they were marked with three points *united* after that, because there was no necessity for more distinction.

I have followed Lhuyd and Shaw in translating Huili, the Jews. In Vincent's voyage of Nearchus we find there was a famous tribe of Arabs named Beni Huili; they possessed the coast of Karmania from Gomeroom to Cape Bardistan. But I suspect the word was *Huididhe*, a name of the Hundi or Hindoos, according to Postellus "*Hudi* seu *Hundi* aut *Indi*, alio nomine dicti sunt, quasi directores et Judaei laudatoresve. Unde doctrina Alcorani quae partim ex eorum doctrina, sicut ex Egyptiaca et sacra est conflata, dicitur *Huda*, id est, Directio seu Judaitas. Judæos enim crebro, remota *Jod* litera, vocat *Hud*. Hundia itaque seu India, est tanquam Judea Orientalis." Post. de Orig. p. 69. "They are otherwise called *Hudi* or *Hundi* or *Indi*, that is directors and Jews, or praisers. Whence the doctrine of the Alcoran, which is composed partly of theirs as also of the Egyptian and sacred, is called *Huda*, i. e. Direction or Judaism. For it often stiles the Jews, *Hud*, rejecting the letter *Jod*. Hundia or India therefore means Eastern Judea." As the passage above quoted cannot refer to Ireland, I have translated Eiran, Iran; the word frequently occurs in the ancient history of Ireland.

The three-pointed sign united, is on the forehead of *Creeshna*, the Indian Apollo, in the eighth Avatar, playing on his pipe to the *palis* or shepherds of *Mathura*, of which a good engraving is given by Mr. Maurice in his first volume of the History of Hindostan. And as that gentleman observes, it is not unlike the mystical letter schin ש formerly worn on the head-phylactery or Tephelim of the Jews.

The next is the *Speir lan-mor no tairise*, that is, the sphere of *great joy and extacy*, or the second paradise; beyond which the Druids placed their *Flachamna*, or heaven of heavens, (pronounced *flackhoona* and in vulgar use at this day) this *flack-mena*, i. e. heaven of heavens, of the Persians, and the *fuluk l'aflak* of the Arabs, by which they mean the highest heaven, the residence of the Omnipotent (Richardson) the *Ti-mor*, the great circle, God of the Druids (Shaw's Ir. Dict.) *Speir Tairise no speir lanmor* says our Irish author, is *faicsnehi don talamh mar a dubhramar an speir lan-mor do bheith*, i. e. the sphere of joy or extacy is next the Zodiac, i. e. the signs, and it is without stars, as we have said that sphere should be. Is not this the doctrine of the Brahmans? "May Brahma lead me to the great one! (the *Ti-mor* of the Druids) there the sun shines not, nor the moon and stars, those lightnings flash not in that place; how should even fire blaze there? God (the Ti-mor) irradiates all this bright substance, and by its effulgence the universe is enlightened."

Our Druids, like the Brahmans, reckoned fourteen heavens in all. The nine next the earth were called *Nuathack*, plur. *Nuathaigh*, which is translated heaven: it signifies nine heavens, from *nui* or naoi, nine, and *teac*, a vault or dome, or cupola. It is the Arabic and Persic *nuh-tak*, the ninth heaven, says Richardson, from *tak*, an arched building, vault, canopy, &c. The Jews named this sphere *Arabot*, the highest heavens where God has his most glorious throne; the ninth sphere.

All these orbs floated, according to our Druids, in *Neamhagas*, i. e. celestial ether; the Brahmans express it by *Akass*.

The Greek philosophers admitted many more heavens, just as their different hypotheses required. Eudoxus supposed twenty-three; Calippus, thirty; Regiomontanus, thirty-three; Aristotle, forty-seven; and Fracastor; less than seventy.

The scheme here presented agrees neither with the Grecian nor Egyptian, and must have been imported from India or Chaldea.

Nor does the Druidical scheme agree with Ptolemy, who made but seven spheres.

In all these systems the earth was placed in the centre; I believe it was universal with the Oriental astronomers. Thales who was a Phenician, placed the earth in the centre. His scholar and successor, Anaximander, taught the same, and that it was spherical, as was taught in the Irish schools, which we have already shown.

Pythagoras, who flourished 535 years before Christ, famous for his studying in Egypt, and Plato who did the same, both placed the earth in the centre.

Anaximander is said to have invented the Gnomon, but Costard proves he only introduced the knowledge of it into Greece, it being of Babylonish original. Although our Hibernian Druids imported the Chaldee name for a sun dial, and consequently knew its use, we have no authority to say they knew how to calculate an eclipse. Thales, it is said, had calculated an eclipse of the sun, but Herodotus tells us, he could not tell the day when it would happen, and only confined himself to its falling out within the compass of that year. How little the doctrine of eclipses was understood long after this, appears from hence, that in the 19th year of the Peloponnesian war, "Nicias," says Pliny, "the Athenian General, ignorant of their cause, was afraid to permit the fleet to set sail, and this was the cause of their ruin; for every thing was ready, and they were upon the point of sailing, says Thucydides; the moon became eclipsed, for she was then at the full, upon which the Athenians, looking upon the thing as ominous, persuaded the generals to stop. Nicias too said, they should not think of stirring till the twenty-seven days were past, during which the augur had ordered them to stay. About the same time, likewise, we find Athens in deep concern at a solar eclipse.

The next figure in the Irish manuscript is copied from Ptolemy, describing the cause of eclipses, wherein there is this remarkable circumstance; the northern hemisphere is called *uachtar*, or superior; and the southern, *ichtar*, or inferior.

The ancient Indian geographers divide the globe into two hemispheres, the superior and inferior. The superior, or northern hemisphere is the reign of delight, beauty, and abundance, and in it *Indra*, the God of the firmament, (the *Ionn-dara*, or Cyclic Belus of the Irish Druids) presides with an army of *Soors*, or good genii, holding his court on the refulgent summit, which they denominate *Meru*, by which in fact they mean the north pole (the *Mir* of the Druids, who named it *Mirgar*: or the head of the pole of the world.) The inferior, or southern hemisphere, that is, the region immediately under them, they represent as a body of darkness and horrors, inhabited by evil demons or *Assoors*. They suppose the sovereign of that region to be *Yama* (the *Saman* of the Druids) the Indian Pluto, who is also judge of departed souls, that receive their future doom at his infernal tribunal.

The Malayan *utara*, i. e. the North resembles in sound the Irish *uactar*; it is probably a Sanscrit word. The Malayan is indebted to the Sanscrit for a considerable number of its terms. (Marsden, Asiat. Researches, vol. 4.

The Druidical synonymous name for the north pole, *Mulgari*, is from the Chaldean *Mahal*, from *hal*, higher.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

AS you have undertaken to give the public an account of many of the Celestial Phenomena which are to occur in each ensuing month, I beg leave to suggest to you an addition to the information contained in your first number, which I presume may be of some service.

Government have it in contemplation to procure a complete and accurate map of this island, and as there are many of the principal towns in this kingdom, whose latitude and longitude are imperfectly known, I have reason to think that if an account of such eclipses of Jupiter's satellites* as may be visible to us, were inserted every month in your Magazine, the extensive circulation of it would enable many persons to co-operate in the design of government, at least with respect to the longitude of the different places. In the following column is a list of such eclipses of the satellites of Jupiter as will be visible to us during the month of October.

I am Sir, yours, &c. &c. X.

Newry, Sept. 9th, 1808.

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* We are happy to find that the writer of the above article is solicitous concerning a subject which he will see noticed in the fifth paragraph of our third page; and we take this opportunity of again inviting Correspondents to furnish historical accounts of the different Towns in their vicinity.....stating their public buildings, commercial consequence, state of arts,

FIRST SATELLITE.

Emersions.

Days of the Month.	Min.	sec.		hours.
1	25	13	after	6 evening.
8	20	40		8 ditto.
15	16	15		10 ditto.
23	11	56		0 midnight.
24	40	56		6 evening.
31	36	45		8 ditto.

SECOND SATELLITE.

Emersions.

Days of the Month.	Min.	sec.		hours.
14	8	25	after	8 evening.
21	44	13		10 ditto.

THIRD SATELLITE.

Emersions.

Days of the Month.	Min.	sec.		hours.
28	25	19	after	5 evening.

N. B. The above are calculated for the longitude of Belfast, supposing it to be 5° 46′, west of Greenwich.

There are, *to us*, no visible eclipses of the fourth satellite of Jupiter, during October.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

An Account of two Children born with Cataracts in their Eyes, to show that their Sight was obscured in very different Degrees; with Experiments to determine the proportional Knowledge of Objects acquired by them immediately after the Cataracts were removed. By EVERARD HOME, *Esq. F.R.S.*

MR. CHESELDEN's observations on this subject recorded in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1721, pointed out two material facts; that vision alone gives no idea of the figure of objects, or their distance from the eye, since a very intelligent boy, thirteen years of age, upon recovering his sight, was unable to distinguish the outline of any thing placed before him, and thought that every object touched his eye.

Mr. Ware's cases, which have also a place in the Philosophical Transactions for 1801, and are compared with that of Mr. Cheselden, appear to lead to a different conclusion. The following observations are laid before the society with a view to explain this circumstance.

CASE I.

William Stiff, twelve years of age, was admitted into St. George's Hospital, under my care, on the 17th of July 1806, with cataracts in his eyes, which, according to the account of his mother, existed at the time of birth. From earliest infancy he never stretched out his hand to catch at any thing, nor were his eyes directed to objects before him, but rolled about in a very unusual manner, although in other respects he was a lively child. The eyes were not examined till he was six months old, and at that time the cataracts were as distinct as when he was received into the hospital.

Previous to an operation being performed, the following circumstances were ascertained respecting his vision. He could distinguish light from darkness, and the light of the sun from that of fire or candles; he said it was redder, and more pleasant to look at, but lightning made a still stronger impression on his eyes. All these different lights he called red. The sun appeared to him the size of his hat. The candle flame was larger than his finger, and smaller than his arm. When he looked at the sun, he said it appeared to touch his eye. When a lighted candle was placed before him, both his eyes were directed towards it, and moved together. When it was at any nearer distance than 12 inches, he said it touched his eyes. When moved further off, he said it did not touch them; and at 22 inches it became invisible.

On the 21st of July the operation of extracting the crystalline lens was performed on the left eye. The capsule

antiquities, extent, population, and whatever else may help to convey an accurate knowledge of their circumstances. These memoirs, when arranged, would form a valuable collection of documents for the statesman, political economist, historian, antiquarian, tourist, &c.....The most particular attention shall be paid to any such communications with which we may be favoured.

of the lens was so very strong as to require some force to penetrate it. When wounded, the contents, which were fluid, rushed out with great violence. Light became very distressing to his eye, and gave him pain. After allowing the eye-lids to remain closed for a few minutes, and then opening them, the pupil appeared clear, but he could not bear exposure to light. On my asking him what he had seen, he said, "Your head, which seemed to touch my eye:" but he could not tell its shape. He went to bed, and took an opiate draught: the pain in his eye lasted about an hour, after which he fell asleep. The whole of that day the light was distressing to his eye, so that he could not bear the least exposure to it.

On the 22d, the eye-lids were opened to examine the eye. The light was less offensive. He said, he saw my head, which touched his eye. There was so much inflammation on the eyeball, that a leech was applied to the temple, and the common means for removing inflammation were used.

On the 23d, the eye was less inflamed, and he could bear a weak light. The pupil was of an irregular figure, and the wounded cornea had not united with a smooth surface. He said he could see several gentlemen round him, but could not describe their figure. My face, while I was looking at his eye, he said was round and red.

On the 25th, the inflammation had subsided, but on the 27th returned, and continued, notwithstanding different means were employed for its removal, till the 1st of August, when it was almost entirely gone. On the 4th, the eye was apparently so well, that an attempt was made in the presence of Mr. Cavendish and Dr. Wollaston to ascertain its powers of vision; but it was so weak that it became necessary to shade the glare of light by hanging a white cloth before the window. The least exertion fatigued the eye, and the cicatrix on the cornea, to which the iris had become attached, drew it down so as considerably to diminish the pupil. From these circumstances nothing could be satisfactorily made out respecting the boy's vision. On the 11th, a second attempt was made in the presence of Mr. Cavendish, but the pupil continued so contracted and irregular, and the eye so imperfect in its powers, that it became necessary a second time to postpone any experiments.

On the 16th of September the right eye was couched. This operation was preferred after what had happened to the other eye, in the hope that there would not be the same degree of inflammation, and as the former cataract was fluid, there was every reason to believe that couching would in this instance be most efficacious.

The operation gave pain, and the light was so distressing to his eye, that the lids were closed as soon as it was over, and he was put to bed. The consequent inflammation was not severe; but as soon as the fluid cataract, which had been diffused through the aqueous humour was absorbed, the capsule of the lens was found to be opaque, and the sight consequently imperfect. The eyes were not examined with respect to their vision till the 13th of October, during which period the boy remained quiet in the hospital. On that day the upper part of the pupil of the left eye had in some measure recovered its natural state, and had become transparent, but the cicatrix in the cornea was more extensively opaque than before. The light now was not distressing to either eye, and when strong he could readily discern a white, red, or yellow colour, particularly when bright and shining. The sun and other objects did not now seem to touch his eyes as before, they appeared to be at a short distance from him. The eye which had been couched had the most distinct vision of the two, but in both it was imperfect. The distance at which he saw best was five inches.

When the object was of a bright colour, and illuminated by a strong light, he could make out that it was flat and broad; and when one corner of a square substance was pointed out to him, he saw it, and could find out the other, which was at the end of the same side, but could not do this under less favourable circumstances. When the four corners of a white card were pointed out, and he had examined them, he seemed to know them, but when the opposite surface of the same card, which was yellow, was placed before him, he could not tell whether it had

corners or not, so that he had not acquired any correct knowledge of them, since he could not apply it to the next coloured surface, whose form was exactly the same, with that, the outline of which the eye had just been taught to trace.

CASE II.

John Salter, seven years of age, was admitted into St. George's hospital, on the first of October, 1806, under my care, with cataracts in both eyes, which according to the accounts of his relations had existed from his birth.

After he was received into the hospital, the following circumstances were ascertained respecting his vision. The pupils contracted considerably when a lighted candle was placed before him, and dilated as soon as it was withdrawn. He was capable of distinguishing colours with tolerable accuracy, particularly the more bright and vivid ones.

On the 6th of October the left eye was couched. This operation was preferred to extraction, from a belief that the cataracts were not solid, and as the injury done to the capsule by the operation would be less, there was not the same chance of inflammation, the disposition for which had been so strong in the former case. As the eye was not irritable, and was likely to be but little disturbed by this operation, every thing was previously got ready for ascertaining his knowledge of objects, as soon as the operation was over, should the circumstances prove favourable. The operation was attended with success, and gave very little pain. The eye was allowed ten minutes to recover itself: a round piece of card of a yellow colour, one inch in diameter, was then placed about six inches from it. He said immediately that it was yellow, and on being asked its shape, said, "Let me touch it, and I will tell you." Being told that he must not touch it, after looking for some time, he said it was round. A square, blue card, nearly the same size, being put before him, he said it was blue and round. A triangular piece he also called round. The different colours of the objects placed before him he instantly decided on with great correctness, but had no idea of their form. He moved his eye to different distances, and seemed to see best at six or seven inches. His focal distance has been since ascertained to be seven inches. He was asked whether the object seemed to touch his eye, he said, "No;" but when desired to say at what distance it was; he could not tell. These experiments were made in the theatre of the hospital, in which the operation was performed, before the surgeons and all the students. He was highly delighted with the pleasure of seeing, and said it was "so pretty," even when no object was before him, only the light upon his eye. The eye was covered, and he was put to bed, and told to keep himself quiet; but upon the house-surgeon going to him half an hour afterwards, his eye was found uncovered, and he was looking at his bed-curtains, which were close drawn. The bandage was replaced, but so delighted was the boy with seeing, that he again immediately removed it. This circumstance distressed the house-surgeon, who had been directed to prevent him from looking at any thing till the next day, when the experiment was to be repeated. Finding that he could not enforce his instructions, he thought it most adviseable to repeat the experiment about two hours after the operation. At first the boy called the different cards round; but upon being shown a square, and asked if he could find any corners to it, he was very desirous of touching it. This being refused, he examined it for some time, and said at last that he had found a corner, and then readily counted the four corners of the square; and afterwards when a triangle was shown him, he counted the corners in the same way; but in doing so, his eye went along the edge from corner to corner, naming them as he went along.

Next day, when I saw him, he told me he had seen "the soldiers with their fifes and pretty things." The guards in the morning had marched past the hospital with their band; on hearing the music, he had got out of bed, and gone to the window to look at them. Seeing the bright barrels of the muskets, he must in his mind have connected them with the sounds which he heard, and mistaken them for musi-

cal instruments. On examining the eye twenty-four hours after the operation, the pupil was found to be clear. A pair of scissors was shown him, and he said it was a knife. On being told he was wrong, he could not make them out; but the moment he touched them, he said they were scissors, and seemed delighted with the discovery. On being shown a guinea at the distance of fifteen inches from his eye, he said it was a seven shilling piece; but placing it about five inches from his eye, he knew it to be a guinea; and made the same mistake, as often as the experiment was repeated.

From this time he was consequently improving himself by looking at, and examining with his hands, every thing within his reach, but he frequently forgot what he had learnt. On the 10th I saw him again, and I told him his eye was so well that he might go about as he pleased without leaving the room. He immediately went to the window, and called out, "what is that moving?" I asked him what he thought it was? He said, "A dog drawing a wheel-barrow. There is one, two, three dogs drawing another. *How very pretty!*" These proved to be carts and horses on the road, which he saw from a two pair of stairs window.

On the 19th, the different coloured pieces of card were separately placed before his eye, and so little had he gained in thirteen days, that he could not without counting their corners, one by one, tell their shape. This he did with great facility, running his eye quickly along the outline, so that it was evident he was still learning, just as a child learns to read. He had got so far as to know the angles, when they were placed before him, and to count the number belonging to any one object.

The reason of his making so slow a progress was, that these figures had never been subjected to examination by touch, and were unlike any thing he was accustomed to see.

He had got so much the habit of assisting his eyes with his hands, that nothing but holding them could keep them from the object.

On the 26th the experiments were again repeated on the couched eye, to ascertain the degree of improvement which had been made. It was now found that the boy, on looking at any one of the cards in a good light, could tell the form nearly as readily as the colour.

From these two cases the following conclusions may be drawn:

That, where the eye before the cataract is removed, has only been capable of discerning light, without being able to distinguish colours, objects after its removal will seem to touch the eye, and there will be no knowledge of their outline, which confirms the observations made by Mr. Cheselden:

That where the eye has previously distinguished colours, there must also be an imperfect knowledge of distances but not of outline, which however will afterwards be very soon acquired, as happened in Mr. Ware's cases. This is proved by the history of the first boy in the present paper, who before the operation, had no knowledge of colours or distances, but after it, when his eye had only arrived at the same state, that the second boy's was in before the operation, he had learnt that the objects were at a distance, and of different colours: that when a child has acquired a new sense, nothing but great pain or absolute coercion will prevent him from making use of it.

In a practical view, these cases confirm every thing, that has been stated by Mr. Pott and Mr. Ware, in proof of cataracts in children being generally soft, and in favour of couching, as being the operation best adapted for removing them. They also lead us to a conclusion of no small importance, which has not before been adverted to; that when the cataract has assumed a fluid form, the capsule, which is naturally a thin transparent membrane, has to resist the pressure of this fluid, which like every other diseased accumulation is liable to increase and distend it, and therefore the capsule is rendered thicker and more opaque in its substance, like the coats of encysted tumours in general.

As such a change is liable to take place, the earlier the operation is performed in all children, who have cataracts completely formed, the greater is their chance of having distinct vi-

sion after the operation. It is unnecessary to point out the advantages to be derived from its being done at a more early age, independent of those respecting the operation itself. PHIL. MAG.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE following directions, peculiarly useful in this part of the country, the seat of the linen manufacture, will it is hoped, obtain a general circulation through the medium of your Magazine. Yours, &c. A. B.

REMOVAL OF INK STAINS.

The stains of ink on cloth, paper or wood, may be removed by almost all acids, but those acids are to be preferred which are least likely to injure the texture of the stained substance. The muriatic acid, diluted with five or six times its weight of water may be applied to the spot, and after a minute or two may be washed off, repeating its application as often as may be found necessary. But the vegetable acids are attended with less risk, and are equally effectual. A solution of the oxalic, citric, or tartarous acids in water, may be applied to the most delicate fabrics without any danger of injuring them, and the same solutions discharge from paper written but not printed ink. Hence they may be employed in cleaning books, which have been defaced by writing on the margin, without injuring the text.

Iron stains. These may be occasioned either by ink stains, which on the application of soap are changed into iron stains; or by the direct contact of rusted iron. They may be removed by diluted muriatic acid, or by any of the vegetable acids already mentioned; when suffered to remain long in cloth, they become difficult to take out, because the iron by repeated moistening with water, and exposure to the air, acquires such an addition of oxygen, as renders it insoluble in acids. The spots, however, may be discharged by applying, first, a solution of an alkaline sulphuret, which may be well washed out of the cloth, and afterwards a liquid acid. The sulphuret in this case, extracts part of the oxygen from the iron, and renders it soluble in dilute acids.

Fruit and *wine stains* are best removed by a watery solution of the oxygenated muriatic acid; or by that of oxygenated muriate of pot-ash, or lime to which a little sulphuric acid has been added. The stained spot may be steeped in one of those solutions till it be discharged, but the solution can only be applied safely to *white* goods, because the uncombined oxygenized acid, discharges all printed and dyed colours. A convenient method of applying the oxygenized acid easily practicable by persons who have not the apparatus for saturating waters with the gas, is as follows. Put about a table spoonful of muriatic acid (spirit of salt) into a tea cup, and add to it, about a tea-spoonful of powdered manganese. Then set this cup in a larger one filled with hot water, moisten the stained spot with water, and expose it to the fumes that arise from the tea cup. If the exposure be continued a sufficient length of time, the stain will disappear.

Stains on *silk*, may be removed by a watery solution of sulphurous acid, or by the fumes of burning sulphur.

Spots of *grease*, may be removed by a diluted solution of pure pot-ash, but this must be cautiously applied to prevent injury to the cloth. Stains of *white wax* which sometimes fall upon the cloaths, from wax candles, are removable by spirit of turpentine, or sulphuric æther. The marks of *white paint* may also be discharged by the last mentioned agents.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN answer to your correspondent the *Linendraper*, I have to inform him that I believe, as yet no colour has been found capable of withstanding the effects of the oxymuriated acid, except such as are liable to be extracted by the vegetable acids, or those made up with oil. The oxymuriated acid is merely the muriatic acid, commonly called the marine acid, or spirit of salt, with the addition of a redundant quantity of oxygen, which, when it comes in contact with the vegetable colours (for which oxygen has a strong affinity) discharges them on a slight appli-

cation of heat, but more slowly without it. Perhaps, therefore, the metallic *orides* might be employed in marking linen subject to the oxymuriatic acid process, as containing a considerable portion of oxygen; but such colours can be effectually removed by the vegetable acids. Printers' ink is not affected by either.

To explain the quere of your correspondent C. D. it is to be remarked, that solar light has the power of producing a certain degree of combustion with the oxygen of the atmosphere, which is in this case disqualified for supporting further combustion; and of course, when a fire-place is exposed to the solar light, the inflammable matter it contains, must necessarily die away, unless it can be supplied with purer atmospheric air than that which is exposed to the action of the sun.

As we are on the subject of *gasses*, I would be glad to be informed through your magazine, whether the wind known under the title of the *Simoom*, has been chemically examined; and whether there be any more effectual mode of guarding against it, than what has been mentioned by Bruce.

I am yours, TYRO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

LAIRESSE, in his Art of Painting, on the subject of appropriate symbols, deduces the crescent in the Turkish arms, from the circumstance of the establishment of the Roman court in Byzantium, by Constantine. He insinuates that it is the silver crescent, which distinguished the descendants of the senators chosen by Romulus, and has been assumed by the Ottomans as a mark of their honourable connection with the once mistress of the world.

I am apt to think, we might, on examination, be able to trace many of the Roman practices, by turning our attention to those of Constantinople.

The punishment, for instance, of the *bow-string*, may in all probability have been derived from a similar practice adopted in Rome, for the punishment of capital offenders.

We have it on the authority of Sallust, that Lentulus, Cethegus, and such of the partners in Catiline's conspiracy as were apprehended, were delivered over to the executioner, who, *strangled* them privately in prison, *Laqueo gulam fregere.*

We observe the same mode of punishment, and the same secrecy observed on the occasion, at this day, in Constantinople; can this be considered a fortuitous coincidence in their systems? I should be glad to have the opinion of some of your correspondents on the subject. X. Y.

July 12th, 1808.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF REMARKABLE PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM KENNEDY.

THE privation of the sight is perhaps more easily endured and less prejudicial than that of most of the other senses. Poets, the foremost in renown, have been incapable of the perception of external objects. The two finest heroic poems, the Iliad and the Paradise Lost, are the immortal productions of the Blind. The eyes of Homer and of Milton "rolled in vain and found no dawn;" yet in the forceful expression of the latter, were their minds "inly irradiated, and they have sung of things invisible to mortal sight." The contemplation, however, of abstract ideas by the blind, which depend not on vision, is by no means extraordinary, nor of those objects that relate to the other senses; for the privation of one sense quickens the perception of the rest, while sensibility of intellect and strength of natural reason, appertain to the blind as well as to those who are blessed in the full perfection of the senses.

Our recollection of two extraordinary examples of this kind in science and philosophy is too recent to require to be impressed here, for all in this neighbourhood remember the lectures

of Moyes and of Davidson in the different branches of mechanics and natural philosophy. The latter, though quite blind, illustrated his ideas by a complete set of most ingenious experiments, and as he explained by his eloquence the Phenomena of nature, he managed a difficult and various philosophical apparatus with perfect ease and precision. It remains for us to record the powers of another of the blind, who, though he has no claim to the genius of poesy, nor has ever expatiated in the regions of philosophy, yet has he by the delicacy of the *touch*, arrived at a most unexampled perfection in the execution of different pieces of mechanism, which in others would require all the aid of sight. The subject of this short notice is WILLIAM KENNEDY of Tanderagee, in the county of Armagh, who has been blind from his infancy. The best account of his extraordinary progress in mechanics, is to be found in his own simple narrative, which the author of this article procured from his dictation.

"I was born near Banbridge, in the county of Down, in the year 1768, and lost my sight at the age of four years. Having no other amusement, (being deprived of such as children generally have) my mind turned itself to mechanical pursuits, and I shortly became projector and workman for all the children in the neighbourhood. As I encreased in years, my desire for some kind of profession or employment that might render me not burthensome, though blind, induced me to think of music; at the age of thirteen, I was sent to Armagh to learn to play the fiddle; my lodging happened to be at the house of a cabinet maker; this was a fortunate circumstance for me, as I there got such a knowledge of the tools and manner of working as has been useful to me ever since. Though these things engaged my mind and occupied a great part of my time, yet I made as decent a progress in music, as any other of my master Mr. Moorehead's scholars, except one. After living a year and a quarter there, I returned home, where I made, and got tools so as to enable me to construct different pieces of household furniture. Not being satisfied with the occupation of cabinet-maker, I purchased an old set of Irish Bagpipes, and without instruction, it was with difficulty that I put them into playing order. I soon however became so well acquainted with the mechanical part of them, that instruments were brought to me from every part of the neighbourhood to be repaired. I found so many defects in this instrument that I began to consider whether there might not be a better plan of it than any I had yet met with, and from my early instruction in music, and continual study of the instrument, for indeed I slept but little, in about nine months time (having my tools to make) I produced the first new set. I then began to clock and watch making, and soon found out a clock maker in Banbridge, who had a desire to play on the pipes, and we mutually instructed each other. From this time I encreased in musical and mechanical knowledge, but made no more pipes though I repaired many, until the year 1793, when I married, and my necessities induced me to use all my industry for the maintenance of my wife and encreasing family; my employment for twelve years was making and repairing wind and stringed instruments of music. I also constructed clocks both common and musical, and sometimes recurred to my first employment of a cabinet maker. I also made linen looms with their different tackling. My principal employment however is the construction of the Irish bagpipes, of which I have made thirty sets in the little town I live in, within these eight years past."

Thus ends the simple sketch of the life of William Kennedy in his own unadorned narrative. His modesty however has induced him to suppress several particulars very much to his credit, as one of the most ingenious improvers of the Irish bagpipe.

This imperfect national instrument, as it is a national one, deserves with the Harp the peculiar cultivation of those who feel the musical strains of their own island, whether melancholy or gay, whether amorous or martial, which it modulates to the delight of the native. We are all acquainted with the sympathetic effect of national music on the Swiss when engaged in foreign warfare, far from his native mountains; one air in particular, which, if he was employed in de-

fence of his country would no doubt excite him to noble daring, has been known to occasion an incurable longing for a return to his country: such a sympathy might be directed to better and more patriotic purposes than that of hiring him to fight the battles of others. The effect of the bagpipes in rallying Frazer's regiment at Quebec, in the victory gained by Wolfe over the French, has been recorded in the anecdotes of that battle; and the inspiring airs of the wounded piper, in the glorious victory of Vimiera, is a fact too recent to require repetition. Would that the Scotch General Dalrymple had felt the electric inspiration of the *Highland* piper and his *Pibrach!*

Pennant derives the Irish pipes from a period of very remote antiquity, and the observation of that most indefatigable antiquary is confirmed by the early testimony of Aristides Quintilianus. The compass of the Highland bagpipe is confined to nine notes, while that of the Irish extends to more than two octaves. The modesty of our blind mechanic, as we have said before, has prevented him from enlarging on several points which we shall here beg leave to notice, illustrative of his ingenuity as an improver of this instrument. In this respect, indeed, he deserves the character of a discoverer, as his additions to the Irish pipes will do away many of their imperfections, and he has had the great merit of adapting them with simplicity, for the management of the instrument is nearly as easy as formerly. To the chanter he has added keys, by which some flats and sharps, not capable of being before expressed on the instrument, are now produced with ease. He has also added E *in alt.* being one note above the original compass of the instrument. Two additional notes are given by him to the Organ-stop, and some of its notes are now capable of being varied from naturals to sharps, according to the key on which the tune is played.

The basses or *drones*, as they are commonly called, formerly only in correct tune when playing on some particular keys, are now constructed so that their notes can be varied as the key varies on which the tune is played.

There is also another alteration worthy of notice; by the addition of two large keys, managed with the wrist, a part of the basses, or all of them, can be stopped and opened at pleasure. The particulars of these most ingenious alterations would require terms too technical to be introduced here, but they shall be the subject of a future number.

In short, this blind mechanic is as yet unequalled, for elegance of workmanship and perfection of scale, in one of our favourite national instruments. From a rude block of ebony, a fragment of an elephant's tooth, and a piece of silver....having first formed his lathe and his tools, he shapes and bores the complicated tubes, graduates the ventages, adapts the keys, and forms an instrument of perfect external finish and beauty "that discourses most eloquent music," capable of expressing the finest movements in melody, and by no means deficient in harmony: and all this by the exquisite sensibility of the *touch*, for he is stone blind, and quite incapable of distinguishing the black colour of ebony from the white of ivory. Under poverty therefore and physical privation of the most overwhelming kind, he has gradually brought his mechanical powers to this pitch of comparative perfection! What an incentive to perseverance under difficulties much less insuperable! It is hoped that the readers of this article will be induced to inquire into the actual authenticity of the statement, and be led to encourage such extraordinary application and ingenuity. W.

Some Account of Don JOSEPH CELESTINE MUTIS, *Chief of the Spanish Botanical Expedition to Santafé de Bogotá, in South America....Translated from the Annals of the Museum of Natural History at Paris.*

THE naturalists of the day may not unaptly be divided into three classes: the first consisting of such as happily unite the qualifications of actually observing the spirit of their studies, and of recording in a perspicuous manner the progress of their labours; the second, of those who, unfortunately for the public, observe without writing; and the third of those who

as unfortunately for themselves, write without observing. It is obvious that none claim in a higher degree the attention of the contemporary biographer than those of the second class, whose names, unless perpetuated by their collateral merits, are scarcely ever seen to grace the pages of the history of that science the boundaries of which they are continually extending. It is upon this ground that we deem it our duty to lay before our readers a brief sketch of the Life of Don Joseph Celestine Mutis, a name which from being so often honourably mentioned by Linnæus and others of his correspondents, has become familiar to the generality of students in natural history, though most of them are entire strangers to the particulars of the life of the veteran naturalist himself: nor should we have been enabled to give the following account of him, but for the kindness of Don Pedro d'Oribe y Vargas, well known to the English reader, by an ingenious memoir on the remarkable efficacy of certain plants against the bite of serpents (Tilloch's Philosophical Magazine, vol. xii. p. 36. seq.) and who, as the pupil and friend of Mutis, is best qualified to furnish the materials for his life.

Don Joseph Celestine Mutis was born at Cadiz, in 1734, of an Italian father and a Spanish mother. His parents, with a view of profiting by the early inclination he discovered for the sciences, intended him for the profession of medicine: and accordingly placed him under the tuition of Don Pedro Virgilio, a surgeon of eminence, then a professor in the military academy of Cadiz, and honourably mentioned by Lœfling in his Letters to Linnæus. Here he remained until 1755, when he removed to Seville, for matriculation in the university of that city. In the mean while the declining health of Ferdinand VI. of Spain, and of his consort, having caused all the most celebrated medical practitioners of the kingdom to be summoned to the court at Madrid, Pedro Virgilio was of the number; and he, from amongst the rest of his pupils, selected Mutis as the companion of his journey. In this capital our young adventurer soon acquired many friends, and not a small degree of reputation; but amongst his most eminent patrons was Don Ricardo Wall, then minister of state, by whom a pension from the king was proposed to Mutis, for the purpose of enabling him to travel. Owing, however, to the death of Ferdinand, and a consequent change in the ministry, which took place soon after, this plan soon fell to the ground. In the mean while his skill in anatomy and physiology had procured for him the professorial chair of the former science, which had been lately occupied by Don Martin Martinez, a man of considerable abilities.

About this period a zeal for the sciences had caused, as it were, a universal ferment throughout the whole peninsula of spain. The fame of Hermann Boerhaave had drawn many of the Spanish youth from their country to Holland, for the sake of attending the lectures of that celebrated physician: these on their return brought back and diffused various branches of knowledge, perfectly new to that part of Europe, such as mathematics, botany, and many other branches of science: while at the same time the voyage undertaken by the French academicians to Peru, to whom Don Jorge Juan and Don Antonio de Ulloa, two young Spaniards, were associated, had excited an extraordinary degree of emulation in such of their young countrymen as were desirous of placing themselves on a level with other nations in the various departments of literature and science. This epocha might almost be termed that of the revival of the sciences in Spain. Mutis, together with several of his literary friends, zealous for the honour of their country, and foremost among the promoters of knowledge, had for some time been occupied with a project of founding an academy of sciences at Madrid, when the Marquis de la Vega, being appointed viceroy of the kingdom of New Granada, solicited the subject of this memoir to accompany him to that country in the capacity of body-physician. The restlessness of youth, (Mutis not being then more than twenty-six years of age,) the desire of seeing a country already rendered doubly interesting by being that fixed on for the measurement of the meridian by the French

academicians, joined to the prospect of acquiring a fortune, with which he might enjoy himself on his return to Spain, induced him to accept the proposal, and to embark for America with the Viceroy in 1760.

Previous to his leaving Cadiz he became acquainted with the Swedish consul at that place, a man of science, who supplied him with the earliest productions of Linnæus, then already near the zenith of his celebrity, and also recommended him to enter into an epistolary correspondence with his great countryman; of which opportunity we may readily suppose that Mutis eagerly availed himself.

On his arrival at Santafé de Bogotá, the capital of the kingdom of New Granada, Mutis found that the state of science there was even more deplorable than he had supposed; fanaticism and prejudice in every shape had full and uncontrolled dominion, and a junto of dull and ignorant monks disgraced the chairs of the university, from whence knowledge and light could in such a situation be alone expected to emanate. It is obvious that, under such circumstances, this new residence could be little less than a desert to an active mind like his; but this very activity suggested a plan to him, which, should it succeed, could not fail of rendering his stay highly beneficial: he proposed to excite among the students of the university a desire for useful knowledge, to introduce sciences as yet unheard of in these regions, and thus in a manner to create a new generation congenial to his mind. Aware that this science forms the basis of most of the other branches of human knowledge, he asked permission from the viceroy to give a course of lectures on the mathematics; which was readily granted by his patron. He accordingly began his lectures in the college del Rosario to a crowded audience; and whether owing to the novelty of the subject, to the interesting and perspicuous manner in which he treated it, to the bent of mind of his hearers, by no means naturally averse from light, or to all these circumstances combined, mathematics soon became the favourite study of the American youth, and Mutis the object of their universal admiration. But not so with the old professors, and particularly the whole race of monks....this pest of Spain. Impatient of that light which exposed their ignorance to open view, and apprehensive that the success of Mutis would ultimately prove the death-blow to their importance and influence, they rose up with a fury peculiar to themselves against the new doctrine and its professor. To bring him into discredit among the more religious part of the community, they insinuated that the science of mathematics was a magical, a divinatory, a diabolical art, unwarranted by law, and prohibited by religion; that it was impossible for man to measure the distance of remote objects from a given point, such as the sun and moon from the earth, and that the prediction of eclipses and other phænomena of nature could only be the result of a secret pact with the devil.

These and many other calumnies of a similar description had a limited effect, in so far as they induced many a religious person, who did not wish to be the father of a necromancer, to restrain his son from attending those profane lectures, and as they exposed Mutis to the fangs of the inquisition; but the injury he sustained in the former case was immaterial, and from the latter he was fortunately shielded by the decided patronage of the viceroy. Thus, in spite of the machinations of his enemies, Mutis procured himself a strong party among the less prejudiced portion of the community, which entirely silenced his ignorant opponents; and his triumph was complete, when the professorial chair of philosophy, mathematics, and natural history, finally received the sanction of the Spanish government.

We ought not to consider Mutis merely in the light of a naturalist animated with a zeal for those sciences he professes, as many of his actions and exertions have proved him to be a man who possesses a heartfelt interest in the prosperity of the country he inhabits. As such, he always (perhaps erroneously) fostered the idea that the gold, and especially the silver-mines are the principal source of the wealth, and their contents the staple commodity, of Mexico and Peru. Gold is found, in the viceroyalty of Santafé, almost

exclusively in the sand of the rivers, or in the low parts of the valleys that were formerly inundated, whither this metal has obviously been washed from the sides of the mountains. The collecting of the dispersed grains of this metal requires no other talent than that of patience, and is easily performed by the natives; but it is otherwise with the silver, the management of which, as being mineralised with other substances, and lying in regular veins within the bowels of the Cordilleras, requires ingenuity, labour, and no inconsiderable expenditure of money. Mutis wished to render silver a new object of national wealth; and finding in the accounts of the first conquest of New Granada many particulars relative to the incomparable riches of some silver mines that were lost by negligence, or want of skill in the working, Mutis directed his attention to *la Montuosa* and *Vetas*, in the districts of Pampelona and Giron, the most celebrated of them. In these he laboriously employed several years with unparalleled patience, and considerable pecuniary expense: but the enterprise finally proved abortive, and the only advantage he derived from it was the acquisition of an extensive knowledge of the objects of natural history that were to be met with in those districts, and of many interesting geological facts, which, should he ever be disposed to publish them, would throw great light on the formation of the Cordilleras, and the gradual changes they have undergone in the course of ages. Here too it was that he discovered his *Psychotria emetica*, of which he sent the description to Linnæus.

The great loss which our naturalist sustained in working the mines of Montuosa, could not but render him an object of universal interest, except to persons possessed of such ungenerous minds as are incapable of sympathizing with a good man labouring under the double load of a ruined fortune and blighted expectations. The viceroy his friend and protector, in order to furnish him with an opportunity of retrieving his losses, proposed to give him some civil employment, or the office of a magistrate; but Mutis, though in every respect qualified for either task, declined the offer, as little congenial to his inclinations.*

Soon after this period Mutis embraced the clerical profession, and, having spent some months in the capital, resolved to try his fortune once more in another silver mine; for which purpose he pitched upon that of *Sapo*, at the foot of the western ridge of mountains of the government of Maraquita, not far distant from the town called Ybagué. The spot which he chose for his ordinary residence was truly romantic. His dwelling-house stood upon an acclivity commanding the most enchanting prospects over that extensive valley, through which the river Luisa winds its devious course: the groves of palm-trees, and all the rural scenery in the vale below, surrounded by a chain of hills that gradually rise one above the other, till they are lost among the clouds, afford a spectacle at once pleasing and majestic. In this sequestered seat, our philosopher enjoyed the benefit of a pure and salutary air, equally remote in its temperature from the two extremes of the summits of the mountains and the valley beneath. Here he divided his time between the superintendance of the mines, and inquiries into the various branches of science; here he made his interesting observations on the natural history and economy of the ant: but botany formed the peculiar object of his indefatigable researches. Nor was he, whilst thus occupied, forgetful of the interest of others: he assisted by his medical advice, not only those who lived in his immediate neighbourhood, but from many distant places people flocked to consult him; and the success of his prescriptions was so considerable, that he was soon looked upon as the tutelar deity of the district.

His sanguine expectations respecting the mines of Sapo proving equally a-

* The viceroy conversing with Mutis on the *gobiernos y corrigimientos politicos*..." Political governments and corrections" that he intended to confer upon him, the latter replied: *que no pensaba tener otro gobierno que el de si mismo, ni otro corrigimiento que el de sus pasiones.* "He wished to maintain no government but that of himself, and no other correction than that of his passions."

bortive with those which he had formed at Montuosa, Mutis now found it expedient to relinquish this object entirely. Probably it had been a collateral motive with him, by these speculations, to realize a fortune that would secure to him an independence on his return to Europe; but this motive must now have ceased to exist, as the excellent climate of the country which he inhabited, the general esteem in which he was held by its inhabitants, the ascendency he had acquired over their minds by his talents and virtues, all induced him to settle for ever in the kingdom of Santafé, and, retired from the capital, and from the bustle of the world, to spend the remainder of his life in the delicious mansion of Sapo.

At the latter place he lived for several years, unknown to his countrymen in Europe, till, in the year 1778, the archbishop Don Antonio Caballeroy Gorgora arrived in Santafé; an event that caused the whole body of the clergy to send in their congratulatory letters to their chief diocesan; among the number was that of Mutis; and his letter, probably as different from the rest in phraseology and sentiment, as the qualifications of its writer were from those of his brethren, excited the particular attention of the archbishop, whose penetrating eye soon discovered the genius that had dictated it. Having learned the condition of the writer, he resolved to pay him a visit in person, and accordingly the next year undertook a journey to Sapo, where he only remained a few days; but this proved a time sufficient for him to be satisfied of the genius and the uncommon extent of the acquirements of Mutis, which for want of encouragement were lost to Spain and to Europe in general. It was owing to the friendship that subsisted between the archbishop and the minister for the affairs of India, that the latter learned to appreciate the merits of Mutis, and procured for him, in addition to a present of 8000 *pesos duros* for arranging his affairs, an annual pension of 2000 *pesos duros* from the king, which would enable Mutis wholly to dedicate his hours to his favourite study, that of botany. The king also conferred upon him the title of botanist and astronomer royal, and appointed him director of a botanical expedition undertaken with a view of ascertaining the vegetable riches of the kingdom of New Granada. The superintendants of the botanic garden of Madrid opened a correspondence with him; and he now almost for the first time became as well known by this intercourse to his countrymen, as he had long before been to the foreign literati by his epistolatory intercourse with several celebrated naturalists, and particularly with Linnæus, who affixed his name to a plant, and caused him to be elected a member of the academies of Upsal and Stockholm.

From that period the king, and Jose de Galvez, one of his ministers, interested themselves so much in favour of the American philosopher, that the archbishop, who was appointed viceroy of Santafé in 1783, was directed to grant to him a further pension of 2000 *pesos fuertos* per annum, for the purpose of defraying the extra expenditure he might be put to as director of the expedition which was about to be undertaken: he also received orders to point out the books, instruments, and other things requisite: which were forthwith procured from the most eminent artists in London and Paris.

Mutis having chosen for his assistants Don Eloy de Valenzuela, a very intelligent creole, and some ingenious draughtsmen, set out in 1783 on his tour through the kingdom: but owing to the zeal with which they commenced their undertaking, the health of his companion was so much impaired as to oblige him to return to Santafé, and to leave Mutis to prosecute his labours by himself; who had now established his head quarters in the town of Mariquita. Here he dedicated a considerable portion of his time and attention to the examination of the different species of *Cinchona* which are found in that district: he succeeded in discovering, and in scientifically distinguishing, the seven species, of which he communicated the description in a periodical paper of Santafé, and on which also M. Zea, his pupil, has published an interesting memoir in the

Anales de Ciencias naturales. He likewise caused to be transplanted to Mariquita, in order to examine its quality, a quantity of the stems of the *Canella*, found in the woods of Andaquies, and devoted a great part of his time to the culture of the *Indigofera tinctoria*, with a view to make his countrymen more thoroughly acquainted with the commercial advantages they might derive from so useful a plant. Here he is also said to have discovered the true nutmeg, called *Otova* in the language of that country.

The deleterious climate of Mariquita, and the zeal with which he gave himself up to the object of the expedition, brought on a nervous complaint, that prevented him in a great measure from continuing to collect materials for his *Flora Bogotensis*. The king, however, being informed of this circumstance, and desirous that the indisposition of this naturalist might not deprive the world of the results of his observations, ordered him to nominate several persons who might execute, under his direction, what he was precluded from performing himself, and also to establish a botanic garden at Santafé. In pursuance of this order, Mutis repaired to the capital, where he took for his associate Don Francisco Zea, a native of the province of Antioquia, whom we have before noticed as his pupil, and also wrote to Quito for an additional number of draughtsmen. In 1791 Mutis employed twelve painters in making coloured drawings from nature, of the plants, with the the necessary dissections of the flowers and fruit; a task which they are said to have executed with all that exactness and delicacy of which this branch of painting is susceptible. We understand that some time ago above four thousand drawings of this kind were finished.

In order to prevent any delay in the progress of the expedition, Mutis set about arranging his descriptions at Santafé, whilst Zea travelled in different parts to collect specimens and seeds. An unforeseen accident, however, put a sudden stop to their activity: Zea, on account of an imputed conspiracy against government, was arrested in the midst of his botanical pursuits, conveyed to Santafé, and there confined in prison till 1797; when, with other innocent victims of that country, he was brought over to Spain to be tried. Their innocence was, however, not difficult to be proved; they were honourably acquitted, and reinstated in their former functions. Mutis availed himself of this opportunity to obtain leave from Madrid for M. Zea, to undertake a journey to Paris, in order to consult the botanists of that city in various matters respecting the Flora of Bogotá, and to perfect himself in the study of Jussieu's classification of plants. This request was granted; Zea made a stay of some years in France, and, having attained his end, returned to Spain in 1801. We are ignorant whether he immediately visited his native country; but we have recently learned that he is appointed successor to the late Cavanilles, as professor of botany and director of the botanic garden of Madrid.....an office which we have no doubt he will fill to the greatest advantage of the science.

What has been said may be sufficient as a sketch of the life of a man who, having during a long series of years extended his studies to so many branches of knowledge, has treasured up a number of observations relative to the natural and political history of New Granada, not to be acquired without a long continued application, and an ingenuity like his. As a botanist, Mutis is well known throughout Europe; and as a statesman, the viceroys have made it a rule to consult him in all important and arduous undertakings; and what is very rare in those regions, his advice has always been in favour of the natives of the kingdom, who therefore love and respect him as one of their most active benefactors.

Annals of Botany.

DETACHED ANECDOTES. &c.

WELSH HONOURS.

AMONG the customs of the ancient Welsh, the following is by no means unworthy of being imitated by nations in a more advanced state of civilization. A Welshman was considered as honourable, if among his ancestors there had been neither slave, nor foreigner, nor infamous person; yet if any foreigner had saved the life of a Welshman, or delivered him from captivity, he might be naturalized, and was entitled to the rights of Welshmen. Any foreign family also, who had resided in Wales for four generations, was admitted to the same privileges.

QUOTATIONS.

In Quotations, as in all other things, men have run into extremes. Some writers have quoted most abundantly, in order, as it should seem, to make a display of their learning. With one of these, La Mothe le Vayer was so much disgusted, that he could not avoid exclaiming, "God grant you to be less learned..." *Dieu vous fasse la grace de devenir moins scavant.*

FORCE OF IMAGINATION.

Fienus, in his treatise *de Viribus Imaginationis*, records the case of a man who fancied his body increased to such a size, that he durst not attempt to pass the door of his chamber. The physician, believing that nothing could more effectually cure this error of the imagination, than to shew that the thing could actually be done, caused the patient to be thrust forcibly through it: who struck with horror, and falling into agonies, complained of being crushed to pieces, and expired soon after. Reason, certainly, was not concerned here.

HOGARTH.

In his picture of "The Miser's feast," Hogarth thought proper to pillory Sir Isaac Shard, a gentleman proverbially avaricious. The son of Sir Isaac, a young man of spirit just returned from his travels, on hearing this, called at the painter's to see the picture. Among the rest he enquired whether that odd figure was intended for any particular person: and on being told that it was thought to be very like one Sir Isaac Shard, he immediately drew his sword and slashed the canvas. Hogarth instantly appeared in great wrath; to him Mr. Shard calmly justified what he had done, saying that this was a very unjustifiable licence, that he was the injured party's son, and that he was ready to defend any suit at law; such a suit, however, never was instituted.

THE SAME.

We are told of a countryman in Ireland who directed a letter to his son, who was a student in Trinity College, in the following manner: "*To my son Jack in Dublin.*" An anecdote of the same kind is recorded of the celebrated painter just mentioned. He once directed a letter to Dr. Hoadley thus, "*To the Doctor, at Chelsea.*" The epistle, however, by good luck, did not miscarry, and was preserved by one of his friends, as a pleasant memorial of the writer's extraordinary inattention.

HIDALGOS.

The Hidalgos, or country-gentlemen of Spain, claim a descent from those valiant soldiers who retired into Castile, the mountains of Asturias, and other remote parts of Spain, on the invasion of the Moors, where, having fortified themselves, they successively descended into the plains, according to the good fortune of their arms.

They are generally classed in three divisions; the first comprehending such as were lords of places, villages, towns or castles, whence they took their surnames; as the Gusmans, Mendozas and others; the second, who recovered any fortress from the Moors, as the Ponces of Leon; and the third, from the places where they resided, or held jurisdiction as Roderigo de Narvaez, was called of Anteguera from being Alcayde there.

QUIN AND GARRICK.

Quin could not conceal his disgust at the rising celebrity of Garrick on his first appearance in the theatrical world. After seeing him perform the character of Richard the third, his expression was "if this young fellow be right, I and all the other players have been wrong."

Upon being told that Goodman's fields theatre was crowded every night to see the young actor, he said, that Garrick was the founder of a new sect; Whitfield was followed for a time; but they would all come to church again. Garrick on hearing this observation, retaliated by the following epigram.

Pope Quin, who damns all churches but his own,
Complains that heresy infects the town;
That Whitfield Garrick has misled the age,
And taints the sound religion of the stage:
Schism, he cries, has turn'd the nation's brain,
But eyes will open, and to church again!
Thou great infallible, forbear to roar,
Thy bulls and errors are rêver'd no more;
When doctrines meet with general approbation,
It is not heresy, but reformation.

BEARDS.

The wearing of beards appears, from the following anecdote, to have formerly been an exclusive privilege in some parts of Iceland. Between the years 1740 and 1750, it happened that two brothers dividing between one another the inheritance left them by their father, one of them gave his brother four rix-dollars for the exclusive right of wearing a beard; which right, in their family, was the sole prerogative of their late father.

RESPECT PAID TO BEARS.

The Ostiaks, a Finnish nation, believe that bears enjoy, after death, a degree of happiness at least equal to that which they expect for themselves. Whenever they kill one of these animals, they sing songs over him, in which they ask his pardon, and hang up his skin to which they show many civilities, and pay many fine compliments to induce him not to take vengeance on them in the abode of spirits.

EARL OF HARDWICKE.

Mr. Justice Powis, when judge of assize at one of the circuits, being at dinner with many of the lawyers, among whom was this nobleman, then Mr. Yorke, took occasion to compliment him by expressing his surprize that so young a practitioner should have acquired so much business, "I cannot well account, Mr. Yorke," said he "for your having so much business, considering you have been so short a time at the bar; *I humbly conceive*," continued he, "you must have published some book, or are about publishing something; for *look you, do you see*, there is scarcely a cause before the court but you are employed in it: I should therefore be glad to know, *d'ye mind me*, Mr. Yorke, whether this is the case." The young lawyer replied that he had some idea of publishing a book, and, on the judge's pressing to know the subject, told him that he was turning Coke upon Lyttleton into verse. The judge who had not wit enough to perceive that his curiosity was played upon, was very importunate to hear some of them; upon which the other told him that at present he only recollected the first stanza, which he would repeat for his lordship's gratification, and proceeded as follows.

He that holdeth his lands in fee,
Needs not for to quake, nor to shiver,
For *as I conceive, pray mark, do you see*,
They're his and his heir's, for ever.

The judge asked him no further questions.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE O'NIAL.

AN HISTORICAL POEM.

To those who are acquainted with Irish history, it will be unnecessary to give any explanation of the subject of the following Poem; few, however, have taken pains to make themselves acquainted with a subject so unfashionable, and, whilst descriptions of the manners of distant nations, ancient and modern, are sought after with avidity and studied with attention, every illustration of the state of Ireland, beyond the very period in which we live, is passed over as uninteresting.

These considerations render a few preliminary observations necessary.....HUGH O'NIAL, representative and chief of the powerful family of that name, in the year 1587, accepted of a patent from Queen Elizabeth, creating him earl of Tir-owen....in the eyes of his kinsmen and followers, this acceptance was an act of submission, and the title itself a degradation: THE O'NIAL being a royal name and conferring on its holder kingly authority.

The mark of favour bestowed by Elizabeth was held by the Earl until 1595, in the spring of which year he suddenly called an assembly of the chiefs of his country, formally renounced the act of submission, and resumed the original distinguishing appellation of his forefathers, THE O'NIAL.

The cause of this alteration in his conduct has been variously accounted for; but an old tradition which is still current in the country where he flourished, attributes it wholly to the interference of a supernatural agent.

After relating in a simple style what is stated above; it tells that for three nights previous to the calling of the assembly, the bean-sidh, *Beanshee*, or guardian spirit of the family was heard in his castle of Dungannon, upbraiding him with his submission, conjuring him to throw off the odious epithet with which his enemies had branded him, rousing him to a sense of his danger by describing the sufferings of some of the neighbouring chiefs, charging him to arm, and promising him assistance.

It will be obvious that to the latter part of the tradition this poem owes its origin.

"CAN ought of glory or renown,
To thee from Saxon titles spring?
Thy name a kingdom and a crown,
Tir-owen's chieftain, Ulster's king:"

These were the sounds that on the ear
Of Tir-owen's startled Earl arose,
That blanched his alter'd cheek with fear,
And from his pillow chac'd repose.

In vain was clos'd his weary eye,
In vain his prayer for peaceful sleep,
Still from a viewless spirit nigh,
Broke forth in accents loud and deep:

"Can ought of glory or renown,
To thee from Saxon titles spring?
Thy name a kingdom and a crown,
Tir-owen's chieftain, Ulster's king:

"Oft did thy eager youthful ear
Bend to the tale of Thomond's shame, 1
And in thy pride of blood didst swear
To hold with life thy glorious name:

"Yet, thou didst leave thy native land,
For honours on a foreign shore,
And for submission's purchas'd brand,
Barter'd the name thy fathers bore!

"Where are these fathers' glories gone?
The pride of ages that have been!
While tamely bows their traitor son,
The vassal of a Saxon Queen:

"While still within a dungeon's walls,
Ardmira's fetter'd prince reclines, 2
While I'Maoile for her chieftain calls, 3
Who in a distant prison pines:

"While from that corse, yet reeking warm,
O'er his own fields the life-streams flow;
Well mayst thou start!...that mangled form,
Once was thy friend Mac Mahon Roe! 4

"Forget'st thou that a vessel came
To Cineal's strand, in gaudy pride,
Fraught with each store of valued name,
That nature gave or art supplied:

"No voice to bid the youth beware,
Of banquets by the Saxon spread;
He tasted, and the treacherous snare,
Clos'd o'er the young O'Donnell's head: 5

"Hopeless, desponding still he lies,
No aid his griefs to soothe or end,
And oft in vain his languid eyes,
Turn bright'ning on his father's friend:

"Who was that friend?....a chief of power,
The guardian of a kingdom's weal,
Tir-owen's pride and Ulster's flower,
A prince, a hero, THE O'NIAL!

"He, at whose war-horn's potent blast,
Twice twenty chiefs in battle tried,
Unsheath'd the sword in warlike haste,
And rang'd their thousands on his side:

"But now he dreads the paths to tread,
That lead to honours, power and fame:
And stands each nobler feeling dead,
Nameless, who own'd a monarch's name!

"Shall Ardmir's prince for ever groan,
And I'Maoile's chief still fetter'd lye?
None for Mac Mahon's blood atone?
Nought cheer O'Donnell's languid eye?

"To thee they turn, on thee they rest,
Release the chain'd, revenge the dead,
Or soon the halls thy sires possest,
Shall echo to a stranger's tread:

" And in the sacred chair of stone, 6
The base Ne-gaveloc shalt thou see, 7
Receive the name, the power, the throne,
That once was dear as life to thee:

" Arise! for on his native plains,
His father's warriors marshall'd round,
O'Donnell freed from Saxon chains,
Shall soon the signal trumpet sound:

" And soon, thy sacred cause to aid,
The brave O'Cahan, at thy call, 8
Shall brandish high the flaming blade,
That fill'd the grasp of Cuie-na-Gall:

" Resume thy name, in arms arise,
Tear from thy breast the Saxon star,
And let the coming midnight skies,
Be crimson'd with thy fires of war!

" And bid around the echoing land,
The war-horn raise thy vassal powers,
And once again the BLOODY HAND, 9
Wave on Dungannon's royal towers!"

Tyrone, Sept. Z.X.

NOTES.

1 " Bend to the tale of Thomond's shame."
In the reign of Henry the eighth, the palace of Cluan-Road, near Ennis, in the county of Clare, the magnificent mansion of the chief of the O'Briens was burned to the ground by those of his own blood, in revenge for his having accepted of the comparatively degrading title of Earl of Thomond.

2 " Ardmira's fetter'd prince reclines."
O'Dogherty of Ardmir, who was seized and thrown into prison by the lord deputy Fitzwilliam.

3 " While I'Maoile for her chieftain calls."
O'Toole of I'Maoile, father to the wife of O'Nial, also imprisoned by Fitzwilliam.

4 " Once was thy friend Mac Mahon Roe!"
Hugh Roe Mac Mahon, chief of Monaghan, who was tried before Fitzwilliam, by a jury of common soldiers, and butchered at his castle door.

5 " Clos'd o'er the young O'Donnell's head."
O Donnell son of the chief of Tyrconnel, who was decoyed on board a vessel and carried prisoner to Dublin, where he was detained from his fourteenth until his twentieth year, when he made a desperate effort to escape, and succeeded.

6 " And in the sacred chair of stone."
The chair of stone on which the chiefs of the O'Nials were solemnly invested with the power and titles of chief of Tir-owen, and paramount prince of Ulster.

7 " The base Ne-gaveloc shalt thou see."
Hugh O'Nial illegitimate son of John, formerly chief of Tyrone, surnamed Ne-gaveloc, or the fettered, from his having been born during the captivity of his mother.

8 " The brave O'Cahan at thy call."
O Cahan of Cinachta descended from the famous Cule-na-gall, who was celebrated for his exploits against the English.

9 " And once again the bloody hand."
The bloody hand is the crest of the name of O'Nial.

HYMNS OF CHARITY.

HYMN IV.

IN this fair globe, with ocean bound,
And with yon starry concave crown'd,
In earth below, in Heav'n above,
How clear reveal'd that God is Love.

I seem to hear th' angelic voice,
Which bless'd the work, and bade rejoice;
It vibrates still from ev'ry part,
And echoes through my grateful heart.

In God all creatures live and move,
" Motes in the sun-beam of his love;"
Vast Nature quickens in his sight,
Existence feels, and new delight.

Thro' glad creation's ample range,
Roll on the wheels of ceaseless change;
The Phœnix renovates his breath,
Nor dreads destruction e'en in death.

From ashes of this world, sublime,
Beyond the flight of thought or time,
On wings of Faith and Hope he soars,
And " Truth in Love," eternally adores.

HYMN V.

ALL Nature feels attractive pow'r,
A strong embracing force:
The drops that sparkle in the show'r,
The planets in their course.

Thus, in the universe of mind,
Is felt the law of love;
The charity both strong and kind,
For all that live and move.

In this fine sympathetic chain,
All creatures bear a part,
Their every pleasure, ev'ry pain,
Link'd to the feeling heart.

More perfect bond, the Christian plan
Attaches soul to soul;
Our neighbour is the suff'ring man,
Though at the farthest pole.

To earth below, from heav'n above,
The faith in Christ profess'd,
More clear reveals, that God is love,
And whom he loves is blest.

Lo! how the sun, at glorious dawn,
The whole horizon fills,
When, all the starry host withdrawn,
He mounts the eastern hills!

HYMN VI.

THE heav'n of heav'ns cannot contain
The Universal Lord;
Yet he, in humble hearts, will deign
To dwell, and be ador'd.

Where'er ascends the sacrifice
Of fervent praise and pray'r:
Or on the earth, or in the skies,
The heav'n of God is there.

His presence, there, is spread abroad,
Where angels have not flown;
Who seek the mercies of their God
Are always near his throne.

C. H.

INSCRIPTION.

WRITTEN AT CORBY CASTLE, CUMBERLAND, THE ROMANTIC SEAT OF H. HOWARD, ESQ.

READER if rocks, woods, waters, lawns, and meads,
Or ought of nature's captivating dress,

If warbling hymns in the Creator's praise,
Pour'd all around from many a balmy brake,
Thy mind can charm, thrice welcome to these shades,
Where peace and mild content for ever dwell!
And while the wearied limbs at rest are laid
By some sequester'd minstrel-haunted bow'r,
Bethink thee as the Eden foams along,
Majestic down his deep and rugged bed,
So pass thy days, but never to return.
Now if the lofty pine attract thine eye,
'Twill lead thy thoughts to heav'n. In musing mood,
The wide-stretch'd mountain, the proud oak-crown'd rock,
The wood of many hues, the far-heard stream,
The sportive flocks that graze the velvet lawn,
Nay ev'n the grassy turf o'er which we tread,
Green habitation of the insect world,
Each speaks in silent eloquence of God.

Perchance, in quest of rural nook thou stray'st,
A stranger to these much-lov'd scenes: then know,
The virtuous owner of this blest abode,
By justice, charity, and boundless love,
Gives lustre never-fading to the spot.
If in thy bosom beats a patriot's heart,
Indignant at the threats and murd'rous deeds
Of him, thy happy country's high-swoln foe,
Here HOWARD * hails thee welcome to his seat!
But if cold apathy enslave thy mind,
And thou of England's weal regardless roam;
Or feel not for thy brethren, Afric's sons,
By Britons torn from kindred, friends, and home,
Exil'd for ever, for thy luxuries;
Weak votary to pleasure, pride or power,
Hence, laugh with folly in the noisy town!

* This gentleman was one of the first who raised a Volunteer Corps in England, which he now commands.

Belfast. A.

TO MARIA.

"Sweetest innocence illumed her bashful eyes,
And on her polished brow, sate young Simplicity."

DEAR Maria! why so pensive,
Why indulge the frequent sigh,
Maiden sweet and inoffensive,
Whence the tear that dims thine eye?
Say Maria!

Brightest eye! in kind confession,
Speak....O grant my fond request;
Sparkling beams of sweet expression!
Tell me what afflicts thy breast,
Dear Maria.

Pouting lips, where loves and graces,
Dimpling dwell in am'rous play,
Why should woes usurp their places,
Whence the secret sigh, O say!
Sweet Maria.

Pretty bosom! yonder lily,
Is not half so sweet to me:
Breathe thy sorrows to thy W.....
W.....'s heart is full of thee,
Dear Maria.

Swell'd with grief, that heart shall never,
All its love and truth resign.
Fate may bid us part for ever,
Yet my mind....my soul is thine!
Dear Maria.

Haply....all our sorrows over,
In the realms of peace at last,
Thou shalt greet thy faithful lover,
Port of bliss! for tempests past,
Sweet Maria.

O then damsel inoffensive,
Cloud no more thy sparkling eye,;
Cease to sigh....nor look so pensive,
Welcome hope and tranquil joy,
Dear Maria.

Sept. 20th, 1808. W.

ON MAJOR TROTTER,

WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH,

BY A LADY.

OH! how much I'd love the worth to tell,
Of him, who bravely fought....lamented fell!
But ah! my lays could ill reveal,
What those who knew him best, can feel.
The tears of friendship long will flow,
Many a heart will throb with woe;
For all must sigh.....that one so brave,
Should find in early life a grave;
Yet weeping still, his friends will say,
Although his life has pass'd away,
The never dying voice of fame
Will love to dwell upon his name;
And glory's laurels ever bloom,
Around the HERO's sacred tomb.

Finglas, Dublin.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Select Papers of the Belfast Literary Society. Fasciculus 1st.....Containing First, A Memoir on Fiorin Grass, by W. Richardson, D.D.....Second, Relation of an Aerostatic Voyage, by M. Gay Lussac, transmitted to the Society by D. B. Warden, Secretary to the American Legation at Paris. 4to. p.p. 45, Smyth and Lyons, Belfast. Price, 2s. 2d. sewed.

THE influence of Literary Societies on the knowledge of Europe, has been very considerable. Those fugitive ideas, which would otherwise have passed away unnoticed, even by the persons in whose minds they originated, have been recorded, and given birth to others which led to incontrovertible facts. Many of the Arts, which render man more powerful, and administer to the comfort and embellishment of civilized Society, have been discovered, or highly improved, by means of scientific men, whose minds were roused to exertion by the stimulus of surrounding associates.

A number of years have now elapsed since the institution of the first Society for the cultivation of Science and Literature, and bodies of learned men, in different countries, have endeavoured by treading in the footsteps of their predecessors, to extend the limits of knowledge. While some have risen to eminence, others have gradually sunk into obscurity, leaving no records to inform us whether their decay was caused by extraneous checks, or fundamental errors, in their constitution. Undeterred, however, by prognostics of a speedy dissolution, the Belfast Literary Society commenced its career in the year 1801, and embraced at once such a variety of subjects, as the most learned and numerous bodies have deemed beyond the limits of their powers.

An attempt to subject the workings of genius to an almost military discipline, and to force it to perform those mental movements in mechanical rotation, which are seldom if ever well made but from voluntary exertion, although it preserved order in the Society, has, perhaps, been the principal cause of its tardy progress towards gratifying the expectations of the public; and it is not without some portion of astonishment, that we now behold its first effort in the re-publication of a Memoir, which has been first addressed to the Grand Jury of the County of Armagh, and afterwards to the Board of Agriculture. Making, however, due allowance for the very flattering Address to the learned Principal of the Belfast Academy, we are happy to find, that among the first articles which appear in our hall of Criticism, is a work of considerable importance to society. Whether we consider it as introducing to notice a valuable grass, or showing the futility of speculative opinions when directed to Agriculture, an art which experience has taught mankind to regard as peculiarly dependant on accurate practice. Agriculture is an art of slow progress. Its steady pace has often been disturbed, and its course impeded by theorists, who, with a poetical warmth of imagination, have raised what may be denominated, the "hue and cry," about some favourite object of cultivation. Burnet Ribwort, and various kinds of turnip and cabbage, have each had their day, and sunk into neglect.

Dr. R. begins his Memoir, with noticing his former publications on the same subject, the Irish Fiorin Grass; and recapitulating some of the observations which they contained; he then advances his higher claim on the attention of the Public from his longer experience, though diffident of obtaining it, on account of the very extraordinary qualities, which, he thinks, he has discovered in the object of his research. He afterwards proceeds to mention a variety of interesting particulars, one of which is particularly curious: viz. that the Grass in question, is also a native of India, and esteemed there as preferable to all others, and propagated in the manner which the Doctor, without any previous knowledge of the circumstance, had employed in its cultivation. The remainder of the work gives his method of managing the

Fiorin, and details some experiments which seem to prove its value, and which demand the attention of the cultivator. We now proceed to a more particular examination of the work.

Why Dr. R. has chosen to adopt a name unknown to the generality of his Readers in the north of Ireland, and totally neglected a scientific description, or figure, by which it could be known to the most illiterate, we cannot comprehend; especially as this attachment to local nomenclature, seems confined to the grass under consideration: for even in the very same sentence he introduces two others under their proper botanical terms (Poa trivialis and Poa annua) without any reference to the vulgar idiom, while the Fiorin either sinks below, or soars above its fellows, with no other de ignation than its sonorous Irish appellation.

The scientific Reader, however, after having read to the Note at page 30, may find what the celebrated Fiorin is; for the Doctor there, like a child telling a secret, says, "though I am not ignorant of the Botanical characters and name Agrostis Stolonifera of this grass, I shall persist in calling it by its Irish appellation, Fiorin Grass; for it appears, by my former Memoir, that the English have known it at Orcheston long above an hundred years, without availing themselves of its valuable qualities, or attempting, as far as I can find, to cultivate it, beyond that meadow where it was so celebrated. Surely then we, Irish, have a good right to insist on the name being retained, by which this Grass has been always distinguished in the country where its value has been long known, and is now more fully established." Then by the same mode of reasoning, the inhabitants of India may insist upon calling it by their name of Doob Grass. Hence would arise an inextricable series of perplexities, which the learned of all civilized countries have been long endeavouring to get clear of, by the adoption of general names.

Although Dr. Richardson may claim the merit of introducing the Fiorin into more general notice, and to genteel company, yet, as the Dr. says, "Its value has been long known," for we learn from good authority, that in the neighbourhood of Derry, the Fiorin has been cultivated from a very remote period, by cutting it into pieces with a hatchet, and after strewing the fragments over the ground, covering it lightly with some manure, nearly the Doctor's own mode of cultivation, and that by this method it has produced such crops in a valley called after the grass, the Fiorin Glen, that a man has been obliged to attend the mower with a pitch-fork, to disencumber his scythe. This property of forming itself into closely intangled masses, has always been an objection brought against it by farmers, who, endeavouring to make hay while the sun shines, have found it so difficult to disentangle and dry, in moist, warm weather, that the crop was spoiled. Another disadvantage is, that not being supported by other strong grasses, the lower leaves excluded from air soon perish, and unless it is exposed so long to dry, that this dead vegetable matter is turned to dust and blown away, it remains to spoil the hay. All these objections are, however, completely removed by Dr. Richardson's plan of making hay, after the autumnal rains have washed the grass, and the more snow, and the keener the frost, when it is cut, we presume it will keep the better; that the Dr. had green food throughout the winter, no one can deny, when it is so evidently proved by the following experiments: p. 14.

"December 28, the day I housed my first crop, I took three or four of its strings indiscriminately. I laid them on the surface of a flower-pot, sprinkled them lightly with mould, and put them in my hot house; they soon vegetated, and in three weeks the pot was covered with a fine green fleece.

"Observing one sprout unusually large and strong, I pulled it up and found it was the projecting point of a string.

"This fact seems of much importance, as it proves that when the string was cut, December 7, its length was still increasing, and of course with it the quantity of the crop, a point not easily determined in the field, on account of the matting of the sward.

"January 18, I a second time took some strings from the same parcel of

Hay, and without choosing the best, the result was the same; these also vegetated from every joint.

"February 5, I repeated the experiment with the same success.

"And finally, February 27, I took strings from each parcel of Hay, the one in the house, cut December 7, the other mowed December 26, and still in the field; these were as before, put into my hot-house, and this day March 4, I observe them both sprouting."

The reclaiming of our turf-bogs has for a great length of time engaged the attention of Irish improvers, and perhaps Dr. R's plan is the most reasonable that has ever been adopted for this purpose. The turf-bog drained, and put into a high state of cultivation, has produced crops for a few years which have come up to the most sanguine expectations of the improver; but of all soils, peat-mould, when kept dry, is the soonest exhausted, and without constant manuring, and additions of more tenacious soils, it becomes incapable of paying for cultivation. But a more serious evil is to be apprehended by the present thoughtless draining and waste of turf-bog, which is the destruction of what Ireland principally depends on for fuel; and if the schemes of the present speculators were carried to the extent of their wishes, depopulation of considerable districts must ultimately ensue. To those who say this can never occur, we answer, look around and you may see how much our bogs have been consumed even by the necessary supply of fuel, within the memory of people yet alive. Dr. Richardson's plan, as tending in some degree to retard this rapid destruction, we think may be useful. The moisture necessary for the luxuriant growth of the Fiorin will preserve the turf below, and possibly allow even the increase of the bog, and every person conversant in turf-cutting knows, that the moister and deeper the bog, the better the turf.

"Were I to limit myself (says Dr. R.) to the assertion, that the Irish Fiorin Grass is superior to most, perhaps to all others, and better fitted to every separate use to which grass can be applied, I might expect to be considered merely as a prejudiced panegyrist, and have great allowance made for my partiality.

"But I must proceed much farther, and state, that this grass possesses the most opposite qualities: that it thrives almost equally in soils of the most contrary descriptions; the richest, the poorest, the deepest and the shallowest, the tops of mountains, the bottoms of vallies, and that it bears greater extremes of wet and drought, than any other grass, or perhaps vegetable."

We are greatly afraid that most people who read Dr. R's Memoir, will think him a highly prejudiced panegyrist, especially if they take the second paragraph in the unlimited sense which the words "thrives almost equally," will allow them. The grass in question does not perhaps exceed, in the opposite qualities of bearing drought and moisture several other grasses; but who would wish to cultivate any plant unless under the most advantageous circumstances? And while there are a variety of plants which thrive in a dry soil, why endeavour to transplant any into an unnatural situation? We allow that the value of the Fiorin crop is considerable in a rich moist soil, but that it is equal in a dry one to rye-grass, clover, lucerne or sainfoin, we are disposed to dispute. On moist, rich lands, the Fiorin certainly merits the attention of the farmer, and in such places only is it worth cultivation, but we presume it will be valuable in proportion as it is intermixed and supported by other strong plants and grasses.

In the famous Orcheston meadow, which has excited so much attention, Mr. W. G. Maton, the last botanical visitor, found a variety of grasses, and other plants of most luxuriant growth, indicating strongly the rich nourishment which they received; but he does not seem to speak more in favour of the Agrostis Stolonifera than of the other herbage*;

* The crops of the Orcheston grass within these late years, have not, by any means, equalled what they had hitherto been. Perhaps the gradual deepening of the mould may be the cause of this, as it must deprive the crop more and more

although Dr. R. seems to consider it the principal, if not the only grass in the place.

We are sorry to see that Dr. Richardson has so little knowledge of vegetable geography as to suppose Iceland without grasses. If we are right in reckoning the Agrostis Stolonifera, Dr. R's famous Fiorin, Iceland already possesses it, with most of the other grasses of Ireland; and we presume if the Doctor's publication ever reaches Denmark, and the king can smile at any thing British, his jest will be returned. But certainly Dr. R's plan of packing up hay in ice, as we do fresh salmon, when adopted in Iceland, must be particularly advantageous, and in plentiful seasons they may lay up a quantity in store for years of scarcity.

From the view which we have taken of Dr. Richardson's Memoir, we are led to conclude that had the writer confined his praises within moderate boundaries, he might have been the means of inducing some agriculturists to turn their attention to the cultivation of a plant, which, in a suitable soil and situation, will probably reward their labours. The Doctor's detail of experiments is simple and satisfactory, and if the saying be true that the man who makes two blades of grass grow, where but one grew before, has more real merit than he who conquers kingdoms, Dr. R. deserves the thanks of his country-men, and we sincerely wish that he may long enjoy the pleasure which must be doubly grateful to a person descending into the vale of life, that of having employed his time and turned his amusements to the benefit of his fellow-creatures.

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of the advantages arising from the disposition of the pebbles, which (if I might venture a conjecture) seems to be a very important peculiarity in the situation. It is certain that the space of only two acres and an half, has yielded as much as ten tons of hay in one year. The first crop has usually been cut about the end of May, and the second in July (or, which is rare) as late as the end of August. The tithes of the meadow have been rented more than once for £5..... Trans. Lin. Soc. V. xxx.

The first Book of T. Lucretius Carus, of the Nature of Things; translated into English verse, by the Rev. W. Hamilton Drummond, p.p. 79. Edinburgh, Mundell & Co. 5s. 5d.

HAD we not promised to give an accurate review of all books published in Ireland, or by Irishmen, we should have been inclined to pass over this in silence; not, because its merits are insufficient to raise it to a due rank in our estimation, but on account of the extreme delicacy of the situation in which we find ourselves placed with respect to it. Whatever may be the opinion which we pass, private motives will be thought by many to have had considerable influence in dictating our determinations. The praises which it obtains because it deserves them, will be attributed to the zeal of private friendship, or the flattery of private interest; the censures it may incur, (and how few are the publications which do not lie open to some degree of censure?) will be supposed to arise from the envy of competition, or the bitterness of private enmity. To our own hearts we appeal for the integrity of our motives; on the candour of such unbiassed readers as compare the text with the comment, we rely for the general impartiality of our sentence.

It has been a question with many whether Lucretius ought to be translated. The apostle of impiety should be consigned, (according to them) to the obscurity in which by the change of language, and lapse of time, he has been concealed. At the present season the doctrines of atheism which have had lately so powerful an effect upon the public opinions and manners, and are now but beginning to sink into the oblivion, from which they had been raised to promote the views of unprincipled political agitators, ought not again to be brought into view, particularly when they appear clothed in a dress which, the more it displays the skill and ability of the translator, serves more strongly to recommend to the heedless, the doctrines thus adorned. Could we see Vice in her native colours, she would be as disgusting as she is destructive, but caught by the false glare of so many meretricious ornaments, we are captivated before we can be sufficiently

on our guard to distinguish the external attractions from the inward impurity.

To this we would answer, not as has been already done on this very question, that the opinions of Lucretius are not so injurious to society, as the loose morality of the antient poets, which are not only read and admired by the man of taste, but put into the hands of youth at an age when the mind is most susceptible of the warm impressions excited by their glowing descriptions, and least on its guard against their secret poison.

One crime can never be adduced to sanction another. Ovid, Horace, Anacreon, and the whole horde of amatory poets should long since have been excluded from any share in the education of a Christian, and consigned to the libraries of those debased souls, who make their reason pander to their appetites; but Lucretius, except in a few passages, is not liable to this imputation. He pretends to reason philosophically, and draws his deductions from fixed principles. As both his principles are false, and his deductions incorrect, even to a glaring degree of absurdity, their examination, so far from being injurious, may be of material service.

It may also be a question whether a new translation was requisite. To those who compare the present with that of Creech, the only translator in rhyme now generally read, the doubt will vanish. Whatever be the merit of the work now under examination, its superiority over the former is, in our opinion, indisputable. We wish also to see translations of classic authors multiply. It is the surest method of preserving the originals from being forgotten. The old translation often lies by neglected; it is always at hand, and therefore seldom read. The new attracts by its novelty; we read, not only to entertain ourselves, but to comment, to criticise; we compare both; many new lights are thrown on the original by the comparison. Many passages for the explanation of which we had supinely rested on the faith of the former version, assume a different form in the latter. Even the inferiority of a second does not altogether destroy its effect on our mind. Cowper, though anticipated by Pope, is read with pleasure. For these reasons we strongly disapprove an expression used by Mr. D. in his preface, where, speaking of Dryden he says, "had he translated the whole of Lucretius, succeeding translations would have been superfluous." Such a maxim must inevitably lead to an increasing degeneracy in every department of taste. The poet, the orator, the painter, the statuary, all should labour to excel the master from whom they have received their instruction. This noble emulation whets and rouses their abilities, it brings into action talents till then unknown even to themselves, it almost gives them new powers, and at length raises them to a degree of excellence unattainable to those who had not dared to aspire at the height to which their predecessors had already soared.

The introduction, or address to Venus in the commencement, is executed with no small degree of merit; yet it does not, in our opinion, express some of the peculiar graces of the original. Passing over the tautology of "Goddess divine," which can be attributed to nothing but an over-sight, or error in the printing for "benign," the elegance of that beautiful repetition,

"*Te, Dea, te fugiunt venti; te nubila cæli*
Adventumque tuum."

is totally overlooked not only by the present translator, but also by both his precursors, Creech and Good.

"Goddess divine! before thy radiant form,
Flit the chill vapour, and the wintry storm." DRUMMOND.

"The clouds disperse, the winds most swiftly waste,
And fev'rently in murmurs breathe their last." CREECH.

"Thee, goddess, at thy glad approach,
The winds, the tempests fly." GOOD.

This omission is altogether unaccountable, as it has been long since imitated by Virgil.

"Te *dulcis conjux*, te *solo in litore secum*,
Te *veniente die*, te *decedente*, *canebat*."
Geor. iv. 465.

and again by Spencer, almost literally;

"Thee, goddesse, thee, the winds, the clowdes do feare."

In the celebrated description of Superstition it may perhaps be difficult to determine which of the translators deserves the palm; perhaps the fairest mode of deciding will be to lay the matter before the reader, to be settled by his own judgment.

" Long human life lay grovelling on the ground,
In galling chains of Superstition bound,
That horrid monster, whose terrific head
Lowered from the heavens, and shook the world with dread,
Till one bold Greek dared all her rage defy,
And marked her visage with undaunted eye;
That noble Greek, whose truth-illumined soul
Not all the powers of heaven could e'er controul,
Nor threat'ning bolts loud volleying from above,
Nor all the thunders of our fabled Jove:
They only roused his ardent spirit more,
To burst those bounds that ne'er were burst before,
Nature's close bulwarks; with superior sway
His soul in triumph forced resistless way
Beyond the limits of the mundane frame,
That rise impaled in ever-during flame.
He soon explored the vast unbounded plan,
Showed whence and how this beauteous scene began;
To what creation's plastic powers extend,
Their range, their limits, origin, and end;
Crushed in her turn Tell Superstition lies
Beneath our feet inglorious, ne'er to rise;
The daring triumph to the blest abodes
Exalts us mortals equal to the gods."

DRUMMOND.

" Long time lay men oppressed by slavish fear;
Religious tyranny did domineer,
And, being placed in heaven, looked proudly down,
And frighted abject spirits by her frown.
At length, a mighty man of Greece began
T' assert the natural liberty of man
By senseless terrors, and vain fancies, led
To slavery; straight the conquered phantom fled:
Not the famed stories of the Deity,
Not all the thunder of the threat'ning sky,
Could stop his rising soul; thro' all the past,
The strongest bounds that powerful nature cast,
His vigorous and active mind was hurled
Beyond the flaming limits of this world,
Into the mighty space; and there did see
How things begin, what can, what cannot be:
How all must die, all yield to fatal force;
What steady limits bound their natural course.
He saw all this, which others sought in vain:
Thus, by his conquest, we our right regain;
Religion he subdued, and we now reign."

CREECH.

It must however be confessed that the daring expression,

" *Processit longe flammantia mœnia mundi.*"

in this passage, is more happily expressed in the latter of these copies. Gray has caught both the spirit and the letter, when, speaking of Milton, he says,

" He pass'd the flaming bounds of space and time."

It is singular to remark how much at variance were the poetical and philosophical creeds of Lucretius. In the commencement he invokes the assistance of Venus, though shortly after he declares that the Gods do not concern themselves in human affairs; and in the passage just quoted, he speaks of the boundaries of the world, while in another part of this book, as we shall have occasion to remark, he labours to prove that the universe is an interminable space.

The system of Lucretius depends on this principle "From nothing, nothing can be produced." This is not quoted at present, for the purpose of inquiring into its correctness. It is neither the philosophy or the poetry of the Roman that is our immediate object; they are to be considered only so far as is necessary to investigate the translator's merits.

One of the first arguments in favour of this principle is translated with equal boldness and fidelity.

" Say, whence does Spring the roseate fields adorn;
Or Summer's gold enrich the bearded corn;
Whence Autumn bid the ripening vineyard glow,
And copious streams of racy nectar flow;
Unless creative nature all things breed
From the nice union of their parent seed,
While genial seasons roll, and vivid Earth
Ferments, conceives, and bids them spring to birth?

If nought produced them, all would quick
appear,
'Midst every season of th' uncertain year.
Nor seeds primordial feel th' unfriendly
power
Of adverse climes retard their genial hour."

Yet, while we bestow our unqualified praise on this and several other similar passages which our limits forbid us to transcribe, we cannot help expressing our astonishment at the mistake into which Mr. D. has fallen concerning the meaning of a line a little prior to this. Lucretius says, "could beings be created from nothing, men might spring *from the sea, fishes and birds from the earth.*"

——E terrâ *posset oriri*
Squammigerum genus et volucres.——

By what unaccountable misconception was Mr. D. led to translate this simple expression thus,

"And finned and feathered nations *spurn the ground.*"

Let it not be thought, however, that this error is adduced as one out of many; on the contrary, it is the only fault of the same kind which has struck us in the perusal. It may easily be corrected, and will, no doubt, in a subsequent edition.

In the explanation of the Atomic System, which is the great distinguishing feature of the Epicurean philosophy, our translator expresses Lucretius' sentiments with great force and beauty.

"From simple principles all body
springs,
Or from a junction of the seeds of things.
No human force these seeds can e'er annoy,
Unbind their solid texture, or destroy;
Altho' no easy task, with you I ween,
To find aught solid in the boundless scene;
For nimble lightnings pierce the stony
mound,
And densest walls are thrilled by voice or
sound;
In torturing flame the steel candescent
glows,
And bursting rocks elastic vapour throws;
Fierce fires dissolve stiff brass of icy
mould,
And rolls in liquid streams the glittering
gold.
When the hand grasps the goblet's silver
side,
As from above descends the racy tide,
The mingled heat or cold it quickly feels,
As thro' the vessel's porous side it steals."

The last sentence of this passage is rather paraphrased than translated by Creech.

"This sense perceives, for hold a silver
cup,
And pour some water gently in at top,
Th' imprisoned heat or cold straight
break their bands,
Grow fierce, fly through, and warm or
chill the bands."

We have now adduced sufficient examples to give the reader a general idea of the merits of this attempt at introducing one of the most celebrated Latin poets to our notice in a more alluring form. One more passage, however, we cannot avoid transcribing, because it puts in a clear point of view, a sentiment, which, in the original, is somewhat obscure. It is an illustration of his argument to prove the infinity of space. The English reader may be enabled to judge of its comparative excellence, by comparing it with the blank verse of Good.

"Suppose fixed barriers should the
whole surround,
Were one, swift rushing to the utmost
bound,
A rapid dart with all his force to fling,
Its onward way progressive would it wing?
Or would some solid mound its flight withstand,
And back repel it to the darter's hand?
Which e'er you grant, the doctrine is the
same,
No limit bounds the universal frame;
For if the flying javelin force its way,
Or if its progress some firm barrier stay,
Not yet the utmost verge of things you
view;
And if this simple plan you still pursue,
Where'er th' experimental stand you
place,
Beyond it lies the vast immense of space,
Girt by no bounds around, or low, or high,
The void still stretches, and the dart may
fly.

"Yet grant th' entire of things of bound
possest,
Say, to what point shall yon keen archer,
placed
E'en on its utmost verge, his dart direct?
Shall aught obstruct it, or the path be
clear?
Take which thou wilt: some substance
chuse, possest
Of power t' impede, and check its rapid
race;

Or let it fly unconquer'd, nor restraint
E'en once encounter: thou must still confess
Th' entire of nature nought of limit knows.
Throughout the dart I'll chase; and when, at length,
The acceded bound is gained, I'll still demand
What yet obstructs it; still new proofs adduce
That the vast whole is boundless; and that flight
Still beyond flight, for ever might be urged."
GOOD.

Mr. D's style of composition, as may be perceived by the above specimens, is, in general, fully equal to the subject. Sometimes, indeed, he rises above it, and by an ill-timed attempt at sublimity, borders on the turgid and obscure. This is the fault of most modern poets, and may be traced to a faulty imitation of a bad original. English poetry is, we fear, in danger of being speedily and radically corrupted by a false taste introduced by a few fashionable writers. Misled by the applauses lavished on these, the young writer thinks he has no chance of success unless he follows their manner, and thus instead of studying the venerable models of legitimate English verse, he becomes a copier of the affected simplicity of Southey or Wordsworth, the bombast of Darwin, or the effeminate littleness of Tommy Moore. The first and last of these will soon be forgotten. But Darwin, who seems to be the model which Mr. D. has followed, is more dangerous. He is the Seneca of modern poetry. His splendida vitia are too fascinating not to meet with many admirers. They must be resisted, or pure taste, and chaste competition will perish in the torrent.

In the present poem it shows itself particularly by a redundancy of overstrained epithets, we find "the steel *candescent*" "the *cnascent* frame" and others of the same stamp. Another fault is the spinning out of a thought by the unnecessary addition of a half line.

"Unfolds her flowers, *and opens all their blooms;*
Shoot too the light, *and freshen in the breeze*,
Whence rose the world, and all this beauteous frame."

This is not so frequent here as in the former poem by the same author; as skill encreases by practice, we have reason to hope that in subsequent publications it will be totally undiscoverable.

We have also perceived two parallelisms. One with Pope; the other with Akenside.

"The Muse's sacred love my soul inspires,
Exalts, transports, *and warms with all her fires.*" Line, 1020.

"But Pallas now Tydides soul inspires,
Fills with her force, *and warms with all her fires.*"
POPE'S ILIAD.

"All nature's fair variety of things."
Line, 914.

"And all the fair variety of things."
AKENSIDE.

These are the errors rather of inadvertence than imbecility; such as an admirer would overlook, an enemy carp at, and a candid critic point out, in order to excite the writer to greater vigilance in his future compositions.

On the whole, there is much to praise, little to blame, and still less to condemn. If continued, it will give the English reader a more correct view of Lucretius than he has hitherto been presented with. With respect to the notes, we would hint the propriety of annexing them to the books to which they refer, instead of collecting them all at the end of the last volume.

Poems, by Mary Leadbeater (late Shackleton) to which is prefixed her Translation of the Thirteenth Book of the Æneid, with the Latin Original, written in the fifteenth Century, by Maffæus. Dublin, printed for the Author, and published by Martin Keene, and in London by Longman, Hurst, Rees and Orme, 1808, price 8s. 8d. p.p. 419, 8vo.

THE amiable writer of these poems gives evident proofs in this volume, that she possesses a good heart, which feels for the woes of others. She can also participate in the joys of her friends. The greater number of these poems are on such scenes as would naturally present themselves in a sequestered village, those still scenes of life, which are often most favourable for

cherishing the finer and the more gentle feelings of the human heart.

" Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Her sober wishes never learn'd to stray;
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,
She kept the noiseless tenor of her way."

In two instances, however, we think we discover a departure from that simplicity which forms the distinguishing trait of her poetry, which, notwithstanding its local nature, does not fail to interest. The translation of the thirteenth Æneid, with the Latin text on one side, occupies 85 pages. Maffæus, a writer of the fifteenth century, writing an additional Æneid, conveys but little interest to a classical reader. Perhaps, even the latter books by Virgil himself are much less read than the first ones. In this translation she laboured under the difficulty of versifying from a literal or prose version: and added to this inconvenience she probably had a subject before her, not entirely to her taste, or at least not fitted to the powers of her muse. We confess that we are less interested by this translation, than by any other part of the work.

By her enthusiastic admiration of Edmund Burke, the author appears to have been betrayed unwittingly into politics, a subject most likely totally abhorrent from her pursuits, and for which her previous training had not qualified her.

He had received a part of his education at Ballitore under the tuition of her grandfather; and hereditary prejudices appear to have made her only sensible to the bright side of his ostentatious character. He forms the subject of several of her poems, and is incidentally introduced into others. In one he is styled "Freedom's firm friend." If ever that character belonged to him, or if he was ever more than the rhetorical declaimer in favour of liberty, to serve the purposes of a party, in later life, alas! how changed was he! Not content with her own praises of him, she introduces an extract from a letter of the bishop of M. in which he represents Burke as " having controuled the destinies of the world, as *all now* agree he did, by his later writings." Here we think our poet has *sanctioned* an opinion in politics, without understanding the subject. That the violent counsels of Burke, sounding the tocsin to the dreadful and destructive wars, which have continued so long with little intermission, and which so far from accomplishing the purposes of our own safety, or the lowering of the power of France, have hitherto had a contrary effect, has been a subject of regret to discerning politicians, of the present time; and when the popular delusion of the day is passed away, will probably form a subject of execration, and astonishment to posterity. We venture to predict that the memory of Burke with all his splendid and showy qualities, will not *with them* be embalmed in the works of the future impartial historians, when they come to record the black page of the present eventful period.

Independently of our opinions of the practical folly of his counsels, we cannot allow sincerity of intention, in his political ravings in favour of the crusade against France, to the pensioned, the *secretly pensioned* Burke, when we recollect the pains taken to conceal his pension, and his infuriate attack, founded on *levelling* principles against the late Duke of Bedford, for detecting the secret manner of his receiving the wages of apostacy. If additional instances had been necessary, we have here a flagrant proof of his mode of reasoning, not on principle, but to suit his temporary purposes. We thus get a clue to his ruling passion, and find the declaimer in favour of American liberty, the outrageous opponent of the same principle among the French before they had disgraced their cause by their excesses, and the *levelling* assailant of the Duke of Bedford, to be one and the same character, who can....

" Change shapes with Proteus for advantages,
And frame his face to all occasions."

In confirmation of the foregoing observations, the following extract is inserted from the writings of an enlightened politician, who published these remarks in the life-time of Burke, before the secret of the pension had been brought to light.

" Edmund Burke has had the advantage of a learned education: his genius is showy, but not solid; copious, but not correct. His judgment is inferior to that of many of his cotemporaries:

but he unites industry with wit, humour, and a brilliant, though disordered imagination: his elocution is rapid, and well adapted to the sportive or impetuous style of oratory in which he excels; but he is seldom argumentative, and more seldom convincing. Had literature been his professional pursuit, he might have shone through many a volume, a splendid and superficial rhetorician, decked in the ornaments of a glittering eloquence and proud of his tinsel.

For philosophical research his faculties are unfit; and in the more abstruse sciences he probably never could have discovered one important truth: but like Fontenelle, he might have explained what others had invented; and might have embellished the system of Newton with wit, pathos, and all the tinkling trappings of his metaphorical style. But he was doomed to be a politician; and the pride of genius and learning fitted him to be an aristocrat. Early connection with an honoured nobleman confirmed his natural and acquired tendency; he was at first his dependent, then freed from that servitude by his noble patron's munificence, at his death he became the counsellor and confidential guide of an alarmed aristocracy. At the period alluded to, the popular societies for reform had received a rapid increase; the grateful zealots of aristocracy trembled with rage and fear at the approaching ruin of their usurpations. But one great effort to save them must be made; and fortunately for his purpose, the excesses of the French revolution held out a consoling hope, that the system of abuses might be prolonged, perhaps perpetuated."...*Wyvill's Defence of Dr. Price, and the Reformers in England.* 1792.

To give a specimen of the poetry, the following is inserted, as characteristic of the state of Ireland, in more situations than one, and as exemplifying the author's benevolent manner of treating her subjects:

THE RUINED COTTAGE.

"Ye trees, does your foliage delay,
Refusing to veil with its shade
That spot—once so cheerful and gay,
That cottage—in ruin now laid?

While others arise on the plain,
These walls in sad silence repose,
As never expecting again
Such social delights to enclose.

Fair decency, cheerful content,
By industry honest were won,
Here quiet his days Owen spent,
And counted these blessings his own.

His forge knew no weapons of blood,
Devoted to peaceful employ!
The stranger partook of his food,
Nor want chill'd the bosom of joy.

Yet torn from his babes and his home,
From his consort so fond and so fair,
He must change for a prison's dark gloom,
This balmy salubrious air.

Her infant new-born at her breast,
His Dora beheld him depart,
She sunk, with her sorrows oppress,
(Ah more—thou must ten times more smart!)

"And O if the lashes," she cried,
"My Owen be forc'd to endure,
"With his blood if the scourges be died,
"His life will sink under it, sure."

See her Owen returning again,
His neighbours all smiling around,
His innocence free from a stain,
And no lash has inflicted a wound!

How chang'd the glad prospect, how soon!
See the clouds of rebellion arise!
The prison had then been a boon
Most grateful to Owen's sad eyes....

What, though from the maddening train,
As soon as he might he retir'd;
In his cottage resolv'd to remain,
While innocence courage inspir'd!

But innocence cannot avail,
When danger like this is so nigh;
This Dora, all weeping and pale,
Revolv'd, and implor'd him to fly.

For see, breathing vengeance and dread,
The disciplin'd armies appear;
The bands so tumultuous are fled,
And the cannon's dire thunder they hear!

But resolv'd in his cottage to stay,
In his cottage mild Owen they found;
Like furies they seize on their prey,
And his bosom receives the death-wound.

The fire-brands his dwelling invade,
The smoke—it ascends to the sky;
There innocence injur'd may plead,
There heard is the sufferer's cry!

Then Dora, her infants around,
Beheld her lov'd home wrapt in fire,
They heard the explosion's dread sound,
And in agony call'd on their sire.

Her stores by hard industry gain'd,
To rapine and flames were a prey:

But ah!—if her Owen remain'd,
Of how little value are they!

She darts through the furious crowd,
Resolving his fate to explore:
She calls on her Owen aloud!—
She sees him—all bath'd in his gore!

Oh then, on his corse as she lay!
Her babe all unconscious beside,
In vain she invok'd the cold clay;
Her Owen no longer replied.

The warriors, reproach'd by her moans,
Their bosoms all poison'd with strife,
With insults reply'd to her groans,
And threaten her innocent life.

Ah! what was her life in that hour!—
The load she had gladly resign'd;
No insults, no threats could have power
To quell the fierce pangs of her mind.

She lives for her fatherless train,
She lives though her comfort is dead,
Chill poverty's gripe to sustain,
And strive for a morsel of bread.

Humanity weeps at the tale;
Yet frequent such scenes will appear,
Till concord's soft voice will prevail,
Which angels delighted will hear."

Extracts could be readily multiplied, but for want of room, we must refer to the book itself, in which the lover of nature and simplicity will find much to like. "The Widow," "The Summer Morning's Distruction," and "The Triumph of Terror," are much in the same style with the extract given. "The Mother" is an affecting delineation of maternal distress, on the death of her children, while "The Beggar" forms an artless and pathetic little tale. "The View of Ballitore" contains very natural painting of domestic scenes, and interests even without a knowledge of its adaptation to local circumstances.

What adds greatly to the merit of these poems is, that they are drawn, it is presumed, from real life, the circumstances recorded having come under the author's observation. We have heard of the author's merit in pathetically and successfully delineating distress, in an instance of a lady in England, entirely unacquainted with the author, who was so touched on reading The Tale of Distress in "The Ruined Cottage," as to send a handsome donation to poor Dora. This is an example of poetry doing good, by being actively and usefully engaged in the cause of benevolence, and is an interesting comment on the author's power to touch the heart. K.

LITERATURE, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

ESSAY ON ORIENTAL LITERATURE, &c.

THE learning of Europe, vast as it seems, has yet been confined nearly within the limits of three or four languages. There are many deeply read in the most secret histories of the Grecian cabinets, who are in utter ignorance of the most obvious events related in the histories of that vast part of the world, which includes Persia and Tartary, whence have (as it is now on good ground supposed) proceeded the various tribes of mankind. However that be, they demand our attention from the mighty revolutions they have been subject to, and present a spectacle peculiarly interesting to the reflecting mind from having united in the same character, circumstances the most opposite. They were warlike, cruel, and destructive; yet polite literature was cultivated among them, and its professors rewarded with a munificence, and distinguished with a respect unknown among any other people. They enjoyed privileges nearly equal to those of the heralds among the classic nations, in being respected by contending parties, and finding safe conduct through countries over-run with armies; and kings have nearly engaged in war for the honour of patronizing a man of genius. From the little inquiry, which has been heretofore made into Oriental literature, we are too prone to suppose that the Orientals were barbarous, and that consequently they have not left any compositions, worth searching for; of the very face of the country inhabited by those nations, we are much in the dark. There is a singular as well as signal instance of this in Montesquieu's esprit des loix. He is labouring to prove, that external circ-

cumstances in a great measure create forms of government. Speaking of Tartary and its inhabitants, he says, "they have no towns, they have no forests and but few marshes, their rivers are almost always frozen; and they dwell in an immense plain." From these circumstances he infers those people must be free. The abilities of Montesquieu demand the most profound respect, and it might be reasonably expected, that a subject, to the examination of which he had long devoted his great powers, would have been accurately considered. Yet in this important point, important for his argument, he has displayed utter ignorance.

In some parts of Tartary, there are large and flourishing cities, fertile plains and noble rivers: in others, deserts, marshes, mountains, and forests. The region contains about twenty millions of square miles, and abounds in every possible variety of surface, mountain, and vale, plain and forest, rock and marsh, inhabited by nations of the most opposite manners, watered by very large rivers, and ornamented by cities of great size and population, as Bokhara, Samarcand,* &c. These nations produced many men famous in the different walks of literature. Late investigations into these subjects have brought to light many particulars interesting in themselves, as well as in the rich promise they afford, of successful aid in the investigation of other subjects, which have hitherto baffled the most learned and indefatigable. Those who have been accustomed to consider the Greek and Roman writers as infallible guides, will be startled perhaps to find their authority questioned, and what has been hitherto deemed the mere ill-natured sneer of a bitter satyrist, now put on the appearance of truth.† When a nation is known, not from tradition, but from *existing* proofs, to have been highly polished, and to have abounded in learned men, whose works remain to this day, that historic works are numerous among them, and that they bear internal evidence of being the histories of those, whom they profess to treat of, it is but reasonable to allow to such nations and their authors such credit, as is allowed to other people in similar cases. But this demand for credit to those authors must become strengthened, when they describe those things, as happening in their own country, and *about* the times in which they flourished; and farther, their authority should be indisputably superior to the contradictory account of persons of a distant country. This is exactly the case of the Persian and Grecian writers: they are totally contradictory, not agreeing throughout the course of an history of some thousand years, except in *one* or *two* particulars at the most. The vanity and ignorance of the Grecian writers in all foreign matters are well known. Sallust with some delicacy mentions this;* even that splendid era, the conquests of Alexander the Great, bids fair to prove no more than a gorgeous tissue of falsehoods. Of the principal historians of Persian affairs, Ctesias, who had resided fourteen years in the court of Persia, is decided on, from what remains of his writings, to have been a credulous retailer of fables. Arrian, who wrote the history of Alexander, lived *many ages* after the period he describes, and seems to have been so much occupied in detailing the military transactions of that prince, as to have overlooked what has been seen by the wisdom of later ages, to have been particularly valuable in the history of any period; a description of the manners, customs, and internal policy of the conquered people. Curtius is on all hands considered as a mere romancer. If such be the characters of the classic historians, who have written *expressly* on these subjects, we may readily infer, what degree of credit, or rather how little is due to those, who have mentioned them incidentally only, and whether these writers are to be justly preferred to the native authors. The Orientals have been conspicuous for various talent; even the scanty informa-

* Richardson's dissertations.

† ——— Creditur olim
Velificatus Athos, et quicquid Græcia mendax
Audet in Historia.

JUV. Sat. x. 173.

* BELL. CAT. Atheniensium res gestæ satis amplæ magnificæque fuere; verum aliquanto *minores* tamen, quam fama tenentur, &c.

tion we have concerning them at present, affords ample ground for admiring their diligence in research, the height of their attainments, their varied excellence in poetry, their unequalled vivacity of conception, and quickness of thought and repartee. The most ingenious member of that ingenious fraternity, the attorney's, would not perhaps think the following devices unworthy of his talents.

The Khalif Haron Arashed had taken a fancy for a slave belonging to his brother Ibrahim: he offered to purchase her, but Ibrahim, though willing to oblige his sovereign, had sworn, that he would neither sell nor give her away. As all parties wished to remove this difficulty, Abu Joseph, a celebrated lawyer of Bagdat, was consulted; he advised Ibrahim to *give* his brother one half of the slave, and to *sell* him the other. Happy to be relieved from this embarrassment, the Khalif ordered 30,000 dinars for the moiety of the slave; which Ibrahim, as a mark of his acknowledgment, immediately presented to the lawyer. But a second difficulty now arose: the Moslem law prohibits all commerce between a man and the wife or concubine of his brother, till she has been re-married and divorced by a third person. Abu Joseph advised the Khalif to marry her to one of his slaves; who for a proper consideration, would be easily induced to repudiate her on the spot. The ceremony was instantly performed; but the slave, falling in love with his handsome spouse, could not be prevailed on to consent to a separation. Here was a strange and unexpected dilemma, for, despotic as the Khalif was, he durst not compel him. But Abu Joseph soon discovered an expedient. He desired the Khalif to make a present to the lady of her new husband, which virtually dissolved the marriage; as no woman, by the Mahomedan law, can be the wife of her own slave. Overjoyed, that the Gordian knot was thus so ingeniously loosed, the Khalif gave him 10,000 dinars; and the fair slave receiving a considerable present from her lover, presented him with 10,000 more; so that Abu Joseph, in a few hours, found his fees amount to 50,000 dinars, or, nearly £25,000 *.

* Richardson's Dissertations.

The author from whom the above is extracted, details an award made by Ali, cousin to Mahomet, which will give some idea of the manners of the people in those times, and at the same time will furnish a tolerable specimen of that acuteness, which bespeaks natural mental vigour improved by cultivation.

Two Arabians sat down to dinner; one had five loaves, the other three. A stranger passing by, requested permission to eat with them, which they granted. The stranger dined, laid down eight pieces of money, and departed. The proprietor of the five loaves took up five pieces, and left three for the other, who objected, and insisted on half. The cause came before Ali, who gave the following judgment. "Let the owner of the five loaves have seven pieces of money, and the owner of the three pieces, one; for if we divide the eight loaves, each into three parts, they will make twenty-four parts; of which he, who had five loaves, laid down fifteen; while he, who laid down three, had only nine: as all shared alike, and eight shares was each man's proportion, the stranger eat seven parts of the first *man's property, and only one belonging to the other.* The money ought in justice to be awarded accordingly."

While due respect must be paid to our *Oriental predecessors* in the scientific parts of literature, their poets will attract our admiration, and excite a continual succession of admirers. The natural progress of the human mind necessarily produces new discoveries and improvements in science: and those, who, in their respective stages, obtained just praise for their exertions and discoveries, are dimmed in their reputation by succeeding discoverers; so that while we ascribe due honour to the Arabians for having ushered to us the first principles of science, at a time when Europe was immersed in barbarous darkness, we also consider them as writers, whose works, though admirable in their day, are now superseded by productions, which must be more valuable, because abounding with new information. This is not the case with poetry. The poet of nature born 3000 years ago still possesses attractions and

while nature lasts must be read, admired, and felt. No new discoveries, no new productions in this delightful region can ever fade: while their admirers fade and flourish in quick succession, they enjoy amaranthine youth, and in the just homage of their lively beauties.

It is therefore natural, that the poets of the East should draw our first attention: and this has been the case. Among the earliest attempts to draw the attention of the English student to Persian literature, was a commentary and and translation of an ode by Hafiz, a celebrated Persian poet. This poet, whose proper name was Mohammed Shemseddin, tho' so much better known by the name of Hafiz, implying a man of great memory, was born at Shiraz, the capital of Farsistan, the ancient Persis, under the dynasty of the Modhafferans, and lived at the period, when *Timur-lenk or Tamerlane, defeated the Sultan Shah Mansor.*

He died in the year of the Hegira, 797, (about 1419 of the Christian æra,) and was interred at Shiraz precisely at the time, that Sultan Babu made himself master of that city; over the place of his interment Mohammed Mimai, preceptor to the Sultan, afterwards built a chapel and erected a monument to his memory. His poems were collected after his death into one volume, and have ever been much admired in the East for the sublimity of style, the variety of thought, the brilliancy of sentiment, the elegance and ease of expression; but above all, on account of the mystery, which many of the Mahometans have pretended to discover in them, being distinguished by some with the epithet of Lissan ghaib, *the language of mystery.*

The acknowledged licentiousness of some of his odes, form a considerable drawback on his general merits. On his death this was strongly objected to his memory, by some of the chief men of Shiraz, who were desirous of depriving the body of the rites of burial. This occasioned a violent contest between his friends and opposers, when they agreed at length, by way of appeal to heaven, to open the author's works, and be determined by the first verse that should occur, which happened to be the following. (Literally translated.)

"Oh! turn not your steps from the obsequies of Hafiz,
For tho' immersed in sin, he will enter into heaven."

The priests hesitated no longer, and Hafiz was interred at a place called Mosella, whose bowers he had so often celebrated. Hafiz was much caressed by many princes, particularly by the Sultan Ahmed Ilekhani, and by Tamerlane; but it appears that he was not ambitious of riches, nor of honours, preferring a life of retirement among his friends, to the more dazzling attractions of a court. The subjoined is a specimen of his poetry, translated by Mr. Richardson.

"With sullen pace stern Winter leaves the plain,
And blooming Spring trips gaily o'er the meads,
Sweet Philomel now swells her plaintive strain,
And her lov'd rose his blushing beauties spreads.

O Zephyr, whilst you waft your gentle gale,
Fraught with the fragrance of Arabia's grove,
Breathe my soft wishes thro' yon bloomy vale,
Tell charming Leila how her poet loves!

O for one heavenly glance from that dear maid,
How would my raptured heart with joy rebound,
Down to her feet, I'd lowly bend my head,
* And with my eyebrows sweep the hallowed ground."

Could those stern fools, who steal religion's mask,
And rail against the sweet delights of love,
Fair Leila see, no paradise they'd ask,
But for her smiles renounce the joys above.

Trust not in fortune, vain delusive charm!
Whom wise men shun and only fools adore;
Oft while she smiles, fate sounds the dread alarm,
Round flies the wheel....You sink to rise no more.

* Literally, "I would make the hair of my eyebrows a besom for the house of wine." In allusion to the highest mark of Eastern respect, that of prostrating themselves with their faces bent to the earth.

Ye rich and great, why rear these princely domes?
Those heaven-aspiring towers, why proudly raise?
Lo, whilst triumphant all around you blooms,
Death's dreaded angel numbers out your days!

Sweet tyrant, longer in that flinty breast
Lock not thy heart; my bosom is its throne;
Here let the charming flutterer gently rest,
Here feast on joys to vulgar souls unknown.

But, ah! what means that fiercely rolling eye,
* Those pointed locks which scent the ambient air!
Now my fond hopes in wild disorder fly,
Low droops my love, a prey to black despair.

Those charming brows, arched like the heavenly bow,
Arm not, O gentle maid, with such disdain;
Drive not a wretch, already sunk full low,
Hopeless to mourn his never-ceasing pain.

But to the fair no longer be a slave;
Drink, Hafiz, revel, all your cares unbend:
And boldly scorn the mean dissembling knave,
Who makes religion every vice defend."

* The poet here draws an unfavourable omen from the dishevelled appearance of his mistress's hair: in the East the ladies are in general very curious in the disposition of their locks, which are for the most part descriptive of the state of their mind; disordered tresses implying strong agitation and resentment. Dishevelled locks are considered in some parts of India as a certain proof of the highest degree of madness. The Malays, a desperate race, who inhabit the peninsula of Malacca and many of the Indian islands, are sometimes (generally from an over-indulgence in opium) seized with a dangerous frenzy, during which they run through the streets stabbing indiscriminately every one who is so unhappy as to fall in their way. This is called *running a muck*. They are, however, dispatched like mad dogs, as soon as they discover any symptom of their madness, one undoubted mark of which is, the undoing of their hair, which is commonly woven into tresses, and put up with singular art: this circumstance being always considered as a never-failing prelude of their rage, any man may put them to death, without farther question.

A late writer has denied that this act of fury proceeds from taking opium to excess. He says that in all the instances on record slaves only *run the muck*, who having committed a fault, sometimes a trivial one, were driven to desperation, and resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible, well-knowing they had no mercy to expect from the cruel and despotic owners of slaves in the East. He relates an instance of a slave running a muck, to which he was instigated by cruel treatment from his female owner, or mistress. If this statement be correct, we must attribute this act of desperation or insanity to the immoral effects of slavery.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THOUGH unconnected with your Publication, farther than as a Reader and a friend, it is with great satisfaction, I perceived in your Number for last month, the clear promise of a work that must do honour to yourselves, and be productive of advantage to the community. It marks an improvement in this country in MIND, as much as in commerce and the arts of life, which have carried so much wealth and competence in their train.

You will allow me to notice another symptom of the same, in the first publication that has appeared from the *Literary Society of Belfast*, which I have just perused with pleasure. As interest cannot induce such publications, they will be valued as they deserve; since it is evident that public utility, as well as literary discussions, are comprehended in their plan.

The first article in their Fasciculus, is from the pen of the ingenious and indefatigable Doctor RICHARDSON, on a subject of prime importance. The discovery of a GRASS that nature appears to have produced as means of rendering valuable the most barren and unprofitable land; a vegetable that will grow in every season and soil; and that affords for cattle a cheap and abundant crop of GREEN FOOD through even the dreary months of *November*, *December*, *January*, and *February*, deserves the encomium passed on it.

The second number of the Fasciculus, is an account of the Aerostatic voyage of a French philosopher, to ascertain the properties of air, and the changes it undergoes in regions of the atmosphere, higher, I fancy, than ever man soared before.

I shall only trouble you farther, by expressing my wish, that such a Society may experience, in Ulster, a suitable disposition for encouraging its useful labours; particularly to induce them to publish their promised *Statistical Account of the County of Antrim*, or papers connected with the subject, on our Mineralogy, Antiquities, Agriculture, &c.

We observe, that their first Number is printed in an elegant style, in 4to. at a low price, and may serve as an

elegant specimen of the progress this town is making towards perfection in an art to which human knowledge stands so much indebted.

I am, Sir, wishing success to every Literary undertaking, especially within the precincts of our own Province,

Your obedient Servant,

Sept. 28, 1808. A FARMER.

In addition to the preceding remarks of this Correspondent, the Monthly Magazine inserts the following Preface, which appears in the first Fasciculus of the Society alluded to.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Belfast Literary Society was formed in the year 1808....*The objects of the original members were, mutual communications on literary subjects, and the investigation of the Antiquities, political economy, and history, natural and civil, of the county of Antrim. If they have extended their plan beyond these limits, it is not from an ambition to rival societies established in more favourable situations, and supplied with more abundant means of information; but with a hope of contributing in some degree to the general stock of literature and science; fostering the rising taste of their native province, and throwing additional light on a district, that has of late attracted the curiosity of philosophers, and with respect to which, they enjoy so many local advantages....With the same views they now present the public with a selection from their papers.... Such memoirs, as may not be distinguished by taste or learning, will, it is hoped be received with pleasure by the public, and indulgence by the learned, if they tend to promote the improvement of their own vicinity, and disseminate a knowledge of their native country.*

It is intended to publish a fasciculus twice in every year, in the months of May and November. Communications from any quarter will, if approved by the committee of revision, be printed with those from the members: but all the writers are to be held individually responsible for the accuracy of their style, observations, experiments and statements of facts.

Their Bookseller will furnish separate fasciculi, receive orders for sets of the Society's papers, and furnish a title-page, preface, and table of contents on the completion of the first volume.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

YOUR correspondent who wished for a poetical translation of Dr. Pitcairn's lines on Lord Dundas, was, I presume, ignorant that they had already been translated by Dryden. Yet though they have been clothed in an English dress, by one whose name renders the attempt at competition almost presumptuous, I would fain hope that some of your poetical friends may be induced to favour us with a new translation.

In great attempts 'tis glorious even to fail: though such an effort could scarcely be successful, it would be the surest means of improvement. As the English verses are not generally known, I annex them for the gratification of your readers.

"Oh! last and best of Scots, who didst maintain
Thy country's freedom from a foreign reign;
New people fill the land, now thou art gone,
New gods the temples, and new kings the throne;
Scotland and thou didst in each other live,
Nor wouldst thou her, nor could she thee survive.
Farewel! who dying didst support the state,
And couldst not fall but with thy country's fate.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

HISTORY.

The History of the Antient Borough of Pontefract, by B. Boothboyd, 8vo. 10s. boards.

An Historical Survey of the Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, by G. F. Leckie, 6s.

Herodoti Halicarnassei Historiarum, Lib. 9. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s. boards.

BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, by Thos. Davies, a new edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 14s. boards.

Lives of Antient Philosophers, translated from the French, of Fenelon by Rev. I. Cormack, 2d edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 12s. boards.

Memoirs of the Life of Mrs. Elizabeth Carter, by Rev. M. Pennington, 2d edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 18s. boards.

The Life of George Morland, by G. Dawe, 12s. boards.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

A Picture of Madrid, translated from the German of Augustus Von Fisher, 8vo. 6s. boards.

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A Practical Treatise of the Law of Venders and Purchasers of Estates, by Edward Burtenshaw Sugden, esq. 1 vol. royal 8vo. 3d edit. 19s. 6d. boards.

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Hints to both parties; or, Observations on the proceedings in Parliament upon the Petition against the Orders in Council, &c. 2s. 6d.

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The School Magazine; or the Monthly Preceptor Revived, vol. 1. 1s. 6d.

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Antijacobin Review and Magazine, for August, No. 122.

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Selection of Papers of the Belfast Literary Society. Fasciculus 1st, 4to 2s. 2d. sewed.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

THE detail of important events, of battles imperfectly known, and of a convention, without parallel, of dreadful preparation for the sanguinary scenes of war, of the convulsions of despotism, but little of the calm progress of human happiness, now requires our attention, and the patience of our readers. We again trouble them to bear in mind, that we write for public good, and will not shrink, in that sacred cause, from the fidelity and boldness befitting it. The situation of the English and French armies in Portugal, in the early part of last August, we noticed to be highly interesting. The reputation of the French Commander, and the ardour and discipline of his troops, promised enterprize and decision. The English army, commanded by an officer of high military name, and themselves eager to cope with the conquerors of the Continent, were determined to secure the first grand advantage on the Continent which opportunity presented to them. Junot marched from Lisbon to meet them, and, in the presumptuous confidence of victory, bade his men drive the English into the sea.

A trifling affair near Brilos, which ended by General Spencer, with his usual prudence, extricating the English riflemen, who had advanced too far, was the prelude to Sir Arthur Wellesley's attack on the 17th of August. The enemy occupied a strong position, with about 6000 men. Great gallantry was shown on both sides, and the French appear to have manifested singular military skill in manœuvring, as well as impetuosity in attack. The British army, of which only a part was engaged, prevailed, but the French succeeded in effecting their retreat in good order. The want of cavalry is noticed by Sir Arthur Wellesley as the principal cause of the enemy having escaped so well. On the morning of the 21st, the French General attacked the English at Vimiera. His object was to anticipate the reinforcements from England, and by something very decisive, to enable himself to turn his arms towards Spain. The attack by the French army was made in two places, nearly at the same time. A desperate contest ensued. The Duke d'Abrantes commanded in person, and was somewhat superior in cavalry and artillery. The fate of Portugal, of Spain, hung upon the day. The British and French found themselves opposed, for the first time after a long interval, on the Continent. The former were finally successful, taking thirteen pieces of cannon, and much ammunition. A French General Officer was taken prisoner, and another was found dead on

the field of battle. "A great many officers and soldiers were killed, wounded, and taken." The total loss of the British in the two actions is stated at above 1200. Colonel Lake, Colonel Stuart, a Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, and a considerable number of Officers were killed. The loss of the enemy, which must have been very great, has not been ascertained. On the 21st, Gen. Burrard landed, but did not take the command. On the 22d, Sir H. Dalrymple also landed, and assumed the command. The sequel proves, that Junot must have made a masterly retreat, and so secured himself, as to command, and even exact honourable and advantageous terms. The memorable Convention of Lisbon was signed and ratified on the 30th of August. The terms of it were, the evacuation of Portugal by the French, and their prompt transportation to France, without any restriction whatever, as to person or property: Indemnity to all persons in Portugal for their political conduct: Artillery and horses, belonging to the French, to be secured conveyance: Hostages to be given on both sides, and the Citadel of Lisbon, and some forts, to be held by the French until the period of their embarkation. By a separate agreement, the Russian ships were surrendered to the British Admiral: The ships to be held as a deposit till six months after peace between Russia and England: the officers and men to be sent to Russia without conditions. The Duke d'Abrantes seems to have yielded to superior force, but to have availed himself of his means of retreat, and defence, with a sagacity and skill, which has confounded the sanguine and often unthinking class of speculators, who, remote from scenes of warfare, decide upon uncertainties, and convert expectation into fact. Still, although the full fruits of victory have not been reaped on this occasion, it is unreasonable, and even ungenerous, to pass over the solid advantages resulting from the success of the British arms in Portugal. That country is relieved from French armies, her ports are opened, and the army now there may act in Spain.

A most remarkable check has been given to the French arms. The army of Junot, though not conquered, has been defeated, and is removed from the Spanish peninsula. Europe will perceive, that Bonaparte's arms are not irresistible, and the reputation of British valour must rise very highly, upon the whole. It is observable, that the conduct of the Portuguese troops, which were joined to those of the English, is not at all noticed by the Commander in Chief.

PORTUGAL.

Portugal, by this extraordinary turn of affairs finds herself freed from French Dominion, and at the same time deserted by her old government. The two events have succeeded without a long interval; in either case the people can feel but a change of evils, unless the Portuguese Government, ameliorated by its trans-Atlantic voyage, and softened by adversity, whose "uses are sweet," adopts better principles, and nobler conduct than hitherto. It is difficult to restrain apprehension, when we revert to the Declaration of the same Government, issued from the Brazils. We there observe the expression, that the court of Lisbon "saw with regret" the commencement of the French Revolution. If that government retains regret at the recollection of a nation attempting to better its government, what can be expected from itself, when restored? It is to be feared, little improvement, little benevolence towards its subjects, and still less in its relations with the commonwealth of nations. There cannot therefore be much permanence in the re-establishment of the House of Braganza. That, in such times, can only be founded on the affections of subjects, the possession of which gives to governments a consciousness of internal strength, and ensures them external respect and security. Portugal has been, and probably will be to England an expensive, because a weak ally. Commercial advantages are often thought valuable, but were it known how much the support of a feeble power costs, even the trading part of the English nation, would think that the balance was unfavourable.

The restoration of the Prince Regent, in truth, presents nothing very consoling. At one time the obsequious ally of France, and joining with her in the

"Cause of the Continent;" again, a fugitive abandoning his country to her mercy, rather than die in its defence; transported by the English, without having communicated his plans till the moment he wanted to make use of them; disingenuous and timid, rendered effeminate by the habits of royalty, and formed indecisive by nature, his departure was viewed without sorrow, as his return will be contemplated without joy.

SPAIN.

The affairs of Spain, bear a progressive favourable aspect. Yet we are sorry to observe any thing of chicanery arising in the conduct of the Spanish Generals. The capitulation with General Dupont has been attempted to be evaded by Morla at Cadiz. "The terms were impossible, therefore we are to treat you accordingly," is the point of his reply to the indignant appeal of the French Commander; but wherefore promise conditions which the Spaniards alone could know to be impracticable? The French having surrendered, were entitled to the equivalent stipulated, and the Spanish governor of Cadiz, instead of such unworthy evasion, should have insisted, at the risk of a general rupture, that the English should not molest but assist the vanquished army.

Joseph Bonaparte, far from quitting Spain, is with his army, and appears not disposed to relinquish his prize, without a vigorous attempt to hold it. He is stated to be at Miranda, forty-five miles distant from Burgos. In the mean time the Spanish Patriots are not accomplishing any thing grand, and the warfare carried on, savours too much of an ill-concerted rebellion, to give sanguine hope of ultimate and solid success. The Junta of Valentia, published in July an important paper, which, while it shows apprehension of want of union, and of the energy of one executive, breathes a rational and most honourable spirit of liberty. This excellent paper, equally free from declamation or coldness, plainly points to a republican form of government, *ad interim*. It adverts to the partial advantage, but future and lasting evil, of the several provinces acting on the separate authority of each. It proposes that a central Junta should be established, and seems to hint, that the return of Ferdinand may be very distant.

The Supreme Junta of Seville has lately published a long, and sensible exposition of its opinion on the same subject. It speaks more directly of a republican form of government, *ad interim*, and suggests the appointment of a president for the supreme council of government, to be changed often. If England should be found therefore at last fighting to set up a republic, and France to put it down, the present might be well stiled an astonishing Era.

To those who analyse the qualities of man, and pronounce what are most effective in him, it would seem that republican energy can alone sustain Spain against the formidable power of the French Emperor. Without the greatest purity of intention, and the noblest motives, divisions will arise, little passions intermingle, weakness, and finally slavery will take place.

Solemn obsequies have been performed to the memory of those who were slain on the 2nd of May, at Madrid. On a superb Cenotaph were inscribed these words; "To the unfortunate Spaniards, assassinated on the 2nd of May, by French perfidy, their free and triumphant country consecrates this deserved memorial."

This proceeding having similarity to the times of the French revolution, may shock those who abhor changes, though for the better; but the friends of humanity will sigh over the inscription, and pray that Spain thus described may rise from the midst of the dangers besetting her.

The state of Spain at present is very problematical. The provinces must yield their power into a few hands, and that very speedily; the fortified places be conquered; the French be appalled by some grand national effort, and a victory obtained, however dearly bought, or it is to be feared that the enthusiasm of the day may cool, and exertion flag. The assembling the Cortes would be very insufficient of itself, for the purpose of regenerating Spain. A vigorous, wise and honest executive, is what she most pressingly wants: with that, and a people ready to sacrifice every thing in the glorious cause of freeing

their country from an external, and unnatural yoke, she may defy the armies of a despot, or if she should fall, will drag her tyrant to the earth along with her.

TURKEY.

That government is insecure in proportion to its despotism, is an axiom that has been often illustrated by facts; and seldom more strikingly, than by recent changes at Constantinople. The Sultan Mustapha on the 27th of July, felt firm on his throne, perfectly unconscious of danger: the 28th saw him deposed, his predecessor murdered, and a young prince proclaimed. This tragic scene was occasioned by the revival of the plan to "introduce better discipline in the army, and with it to restore Selim, who had been precipitated from the throne on the 28th of May, 1807. Mustapha Bairactar, Pacha Rudschuck, with the design of following the enlightened views of the Sultan Selim, having gained several of the reigning Sultan's ministers, among whom was the Grand Vizier," came to Constantinople, with a corps of trusty troops, caused the Commandant of the Castles of the Dardanelles, the author of the former revolution, to be beheaded, the Mufti and all the new Ministers of the Sultan to be deposed, the Aga of the Janissaries to be strangled, and the most important posts of Constantinople to be occupied by his troops. The Grand Vizier, the new Mufti, and several other members of the Divan, declared themselves the partizans of Mustapha Bairactar. The Sultan had no suspicion of his project; on the contrary, he thought himself so secure, that, on the 8th instant, he repaired in the morning to Bisutach. But the Sultan Mother having got information of it on the 28th, Mustapha IV. returned with all expedition by sea to the Seraglio, whilst the Pacha of Rudschuck was entering it by land. The Pacha caused the new Mufti to inform him, that Selim only was lawful Emperor. Mustapha, far from following the example given on the 28th of May, by his uncle Selim, who voluntarily descended from the throne, ordered the inner gates of the Seraglio to be shut. The soldiers of the Pacha, however, speedily effected an entrance, but they found the unfortunate Selim dead, and covered with blood. Seized with horror at this spectacle, Mustapha Bairactar, and the Grandees of the Porte, caused Prince Mahomet, the last branch of the reigning dynasty, to be immediately proclaimed Emperor. This Prince, who is about fifteen years of age, has, for the last fifteen months, been confined with the Sultan Selim, who, during that space, instructed him in the art of government.

On the 29th, the unfortunate Selim was buried at Your, by the side of his father. The Pacha of Rudschuck, the whole of his army, and all the respectable inhabitants of this capital, attended the funeral. During these melancholy occurrences, the public tranquillity was not in the slightest degree interrupted. The greater part of the assassins of Selim have been executed. We know not whether the deposed Sultan is still living. Some people assert, that he has been strangled. Mustapha Bairactar has taken possession of the Grand Seal. The Grand Vizier is a prisoner in his camp, for having revealed to the Sultan Mother, the plan of replacing Selim on the throne. There is no doubt that the Pacha of Rudschuck will soon be appointed Grand Vizier.

Eleven of the principal partizans of the Sultan Mustapha were this day strangled in the Seraglio. The Kaislar-Aga (chief of the eunuchs) who assisted in the murder of Selim, was executed on the 29th. Such are the shocking occurrences, which a bad system of government so often occasions.

Selim, the deposed Sultan, who has fallen a sacrifice to the design of restoring him, was an excellent and mild prince. His object had been to place his army in a state similar to that of other powers on the continent; by introducing European discipline and tactics. In the perilous situation of his country, threatened by England and Russia, on one side, and by the encroaching power of France on the other, neutrality, and time to put himself in a respectable state of defence, were his objects. But, in modern days, such conduct is not permitted. Selim was said to be a friend to literature, and of amiable manners. We must be allowed to

deplore the melancholy end of this unfortunate prince, who died in the secluded chambers of the seraglio, a victim to the revengeful and envious rage of a tyrant.

The ultimate object of Mustapha Bairactar will probably be attained. Mustapha has been overthrown, and the young Sultan will be guided by the Pacha of Rudschuck. The change, on the whole, must be useful to Turkey, it is supposed to be favourable to France. Doubtless the wavering conduct of the Sultan Mustapha, his inclining to negociate with England, and the intrigues of France, accelerated his fall; but his government, proceeding on the old system, could not long have stood. An enlightened ministry may, by prudent measures, avert the ruin of Turkey, which, by the final turn of the present revolution, now escapes the pressure of French vengeance.

RUSSIA.

Russia continues the same course of politics. The cause of Spain was not likely to excite warm feelings in the power, which, without remorse, had massacred and plundered in Poland, and had so severely oppressed the Turks. A partial action, between the Russian and Swedish and English fleets has taken place in the Baltic, and a Russian ship of war has been run aground and destroyed. The warfare against Sweden languishes, nor can it be supposed that Russia has her views very intently bent on that quarter.

POLAND.

Some tendency to insurrection has been discovered, it is said, in Poland, and the chief person concerned, Dombrowsky, has been ordered to be arrested, by the court of St. Petersburgh. Had similar assistance been afforded to this ill-fated country, in its glorious struggle for independence, as Spain has received, many evils would have been prevented in Europe; a barrier in the north would have been preserved, and the true interests of nations would have been held in view. Russia was, in those times, nearly as formidable as France now is. Poland was, as Spain is now, threatened to be oppressed and despoiled: she was even more ungenerously beset, as not one, but three great powers, conspired against her independence and happiness. The Empress Catharine was a character as despotic, more bloody and more faulty in many respects than the French Emperor. Her seizure of the Chersonese, her conduct to Turkey, her massacres in Poland, and her internal government, and private life have proved this. Poland was, however, suffered to fall. Such deviation from principle in those powers, who by their supineness (and of these, most particularly England) were accessaries to her destruction, led to the fatal engendering and sanctioning a system of *partition*. Hence, it is needless to remark to intelligent men how much disorder has arisen. The futile attempt to dismember France; her gigantic efforts for safety, her transmutation into the Conqueror of Continental Europe, and the present position of things!

ITALY.

The Pope makes remonstrance, and struggles a little against the over-ruling influence which General Miollis exerts at Rome. His resistance can be but feeble, and appears rather unaccountable after the concession he had made, and the submission he had shown. In the posture of affairs in modern Europe, the papal power, as a temporality naturally became diminished. The spiritual sway of the court of Rome, has also suffered abridgment. There is nothing now alarming in its pretensions.

Nor can it be maintained, after the noble efforts of Spaniards, that the Catholic religion is adverse to liberty, or incapable of the most sublime patriotism. The British Commander tells the Portuguese, he is come among other things, to defend "their holy religion," and the contumely and insult exhibited by the French against Catholic places of worship, is held forth, as one of the principal causes for blaming Bonaparte's proceedings in Spain.

Naples remains tranquil, and it is probable that the vigilant and military Sovereign it has received, will not only preserve his throne, but shortly menace Sicily itself. It is unlikely that the restoration of the old government of Naples, is desired there; its vindictive hand stained by former vengeance, would now be still more feared, and consequently resisted. Nor is it an ad-

vantage to Sicily at this moment to possess such a court. Its residence, and interference prevent vigorous plans of defence: a declaration of Sicilian independence and aid of a British force, alone could promise the probability of safety; so many difficulties are in the way of this, however, that such a turn of affairs in Sicily cannot be expected. Another year may decide its fate.

AUSTRIA.

Austria has increased her military establishment, but her finances are too low for war, nor is it certain that she desires it: she has suffered dreadfully, and cannot feel much of sympathy to the Spanish cause. The court of Vienna does not manifest much regard for its own subjects. The Diet of Hungary is postponed and the salutary step of listening to, and redressing the grievances of the Hungarian nation, does not seem about to be taken hastily. General measures of precaution are all which Austria can wisely attempt to employ, and they are the most suitable to the character of her Emperor.

FRANCE.

"I am determined to carry on the war with Spain with the utmost activity, and destroy the armies which England has disembarked in that country. The future security of my subjects, the prosperity of commerce, and a maritime peace, must alike depend on these important operations.

"My alliance with the Emperor of Russia extinguishes every hope which England can entertain from her projects. I have no doubt respecting the peace of the Continent, but I neither will, nor ought to rely upon the false calculations and the errors of other Courts, and since my neighbours increase their armies, it is a duty incumbent on me to increase mine."

These words of the French Emperor, in his message to the Senate, show a determination, unaltered by the events in Spain, to pursue the war there, and they evince confidence that the rest of the Continent will remain at peace. The reports of the Minister for Foreign Affairs develope the plan of Napoleon. He appears to have long meditated the union of Spain and France, by placing one of his own family on the Spanish throne. He professes to follow the steps of Louis XIV. and justifies the measure, on the ground of the secret hostility of Spain to France, of the danger to the latter from such a state of things, and on the certainty of the perpetual insincerity of the old dynasty. The specious reasons assigned for destroying the independence of Spain are those common to all such despotic acts; the bad administration, the internal distractions, the intrigues of a foreign enemy. "*What policy suggests, justice authorises,*" says this remarkable report. This pernicious position might be stated without abuse of terms more correctly. "What despotism wishes, is right." Thus the habits, prejudices, and honour, in a word, the happiness of a nation, are often destroyed and violated; and this is deemed policy, and odiously affecting benevolence, is called studying the welfare of a people, better than they are competent to themselves. New conscripts are called out. Two hundred thousand men, are destined for Spain, without diminishing the other widely extended armies of France. It is proposed, on the contrary, to add 80,000 men to them. The same report asks Napoleon. "What part will you take? Will you sacrifice the cause of Sovereigns and sanction an outrage committed against the Majesty of the Throne?" Thus making him the avenger of Royalty, and the Protector of Kings!

The second Report of the same Minister declares, "Peace and the liberty of the seas, can only be obtained by conquering Spain, and also the English upon Spanish ground. "It is no small advantage, says this report, the probability of at length meeting the English, of fighting them man to man, of making them also feel the evils of war." There is a secret satisfaction betrayed in those words, which a warlike genius would be very likely to feel, if he had wished to bring powerful means on an enemy, and had been debarred the opportunity of exercising them for a considerable time. Some distrust of Austria is manifested: much satisfaction at the conduct of America. The War Minister, in speaking of the armies in Poland, in Prussia, and in Silesia, in Denmark, in Dalmatia, in Albania, in Italy, Naples, and Spain, says, never were the armies of France "more numerous, better appointed, better kept

up, or better provisioned;" and speaks of a million of armed men ready to protect "the honour and security of France." The renunciation of Charles IV. and of the Prince of Asturias, is now published by Bonaparte, and one cannot but despise persons, who, under any circumstances, could agree to terms so ignominious.

Bonaparte is said to be commencing a journey to Germany. The Confederate Princes of the Rhine have had their complement of force called out, and there is every appearance of a campaign stupendous beyond example as to result, and which may again draw forth, and employ the military genius of France and its Emperor, in a manner which must create anxiety and deliberation in the minds of impartial reasoners: a campaign which, at all events, must cause a deluge of blood, and convey misery into the bosom of many a domestic circle, and, far from home, lay on the earth the hope, and the honour of many a family.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Great Britain is now involved in a Continental war, as a principal party on land, and has boldly committed her fortune with the Spanish war. Opinions in England have always been divided on the policy of her acting thus, but at present there seems an unanimous desire for the experiment of a grand effort on land.

The event is in the hands of an all wise Providence. Doubtless the previous decision on this question, required the most profound views, great knowledge of the Continent, and exact information as to the capabilities of Spain. There was even still, an intuitive feeling wanting, remote from arrogance or envy, undazzled by the blaze of the moment, and chastened by reviewing the combinations of the present, and the possible or probable ones of the future. Whether this existed, many may doubt, and posterity can better examine. The crisis cannot be distant, and the complicated state of Europe, will excite various emotions in our readers in its future developement.

IRELAND.

In our first number we promised a fuller discussion of the affairs of Ireland; we trust it will not now be displeasing to our readers. Many may wish to avoid delicate political subjects but such wish is the symptom of unwise fear, and betrays something of desire to retain what is unjustly held, and cannot bear the honest examination of truth. Ireland though nominally diminished in consequence, has virtually risen in the scale of nations, from the circumstances of Europe. But her strength, though thus intrinsically and relatively increased, is left, comparatively speaking, inert. She is a healthy and vigorous child, whom all the restrictions of bad education have not been able to cramp or degrade, and in the transcendant power of nature, rears her head with a gracefulness and beauty that narrow minds do not understand, which the interested calumniate, but which the humane and wise behold with inward satisfaction. An amalgamating incorporation of two islands may now be considered a demonstrated fallacy. Mutual interest will prove a natural bond in case of proximity. A complete blending of nations so circumstanced, is ideal, as the dream of the alchymist. Ireland, stands neutralized by the impolicy of men, denominated statesmen, who losing the substance have embraced the shadow. A collateral question rising from the compact of union apparently, but antecedent in fact to the contemplation of the measure, has of late years agitated parties in both countries, and sensibly affected the feelings of the population in Ireland. That relief to the Catholics, from the irritating and impolitic restraints, which monopoly in in its blindness had created is matter of right, borders on want of humanity to deny. To do evil with a remote probability of expected good, is impious in the extreme. In the vale of life it is cruel to plant adscititious thorns! enough shoot from man's errors. To plant them on system, is treason to social order.

Ireland retains her antient religion, her language, and a distinct character. The laws invented to destroy these, have perpetuated them. Misery has been their offspring, but neither degradation nor assimilation. In the present century, the claims of the Catholics have been put forth with unrivalled eloquence in the English se-

nate, but the coldness of a distant atmosphere has repeatedly blighted the hope of redress. In the last session of the English Parliament, a proposal was conveyed, half by insinuation, and half direct, by two distinguished Irish Members, that the nomination of Catholic Prelates should be vested in his Majesty. The sensation excited by this was very strong in the House of Commons, and in London. The triumph of party was great, and the victorious question, "What can now be objected to the Catholics? (that is, to us) burst from every lip! A little time has dissipated the delusion. The Catholics of Ireland had *not* authorised Mr. Grattan, or Mr. George Ponsonby, to concede the point in question. That certain overtures, without the sanction of the clergy at large, or the bulk of the laity, had been made, by a few individuals, to one or both of these gentlemen, and their party, is not doubted. But they were puny politicians, who caught at such a proposition, without weighing, and probing, and examining whether there was practicability, that is, sufficient authority on the side of it.

In truth the independence of the Catholic Church is a remnant, which Ireland holds as the last stripe of the banner of national honour, and in offering to yield it, to be hung as a trophy in Westminster, it would be a completion of suicide. Besides, when just rights were demanded, the meanness of fresh concession, previous to obtaining them, was flagrant.

The point, as argued in England, was very insignificant; the influence of the Pope, and the authority of his name are very weak, and in that view there was no obstacle in the way of redress. But as the matter was felt in Ireland, it was quite otherwise, and therefore the concession was deemed impolitic, impracticable, and unpatriotic. The Pope was not contemplated as the dictator, but as the venerable arbiter in clerical affairs. The system of the Catholic Church, is, in fact, elective, and the reference to the Pope for approbation is rather deference to the antient head of the Catholic religion, in point of ceremony, than any thing of blind submission to his will. The late resolutions of the Catholic Prelates have probably set the thing to rest. They have decided that the wished concession ought not to be, and cannot be made, and they are entitled to the gratitude of their country. The obvious aim of the party was to make the Catholic question malleable enough to be worked up for narrow purposes. Ireland was forgotten, but she has vindicated herself.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

Antrim....A melancholy accident happened on the 8th of September last, to J. M'Intyre, an industrious man, of Drumavaddy, parish of Loughgill, in this county, who had gone to the mountain between Clough and Cushendall to take his horse from grass; but, unfortunately, the day being wet and foggy, and night coming on, he missed his way, and perished by the brink of a little rivulet, where he was found eight days after. He has left five children, fatherless.

Shocking relation.....John Wilson, commonly called Whiskey Jack, from his remarkable intemperance, having returned from the funeral of his father, on Friday the 23d of September, was that night murdered in his own house. He and his unmarried brother and sister had rendered themselves notorious in the neighbourhood of Antrim, by their contentions and quarrels about a small farm, the property of their father, to the great affliction of their parent, and the annoyance of the neighbourhood. The deceased has left a wife and six helples children to lament his unhappy fate.

Died....Near Glenavy, Mr. Nicholas Ookman, aged 77 years....Mr. Robert Cinnamond of Magheragill....At Snugville near Belfast, Mrs. Catharine M'Clathry aged 85 years.

Married....Mr. W. Hawkins, to Miss

Mary Anne Harrison of Ballycastle. Mr. J. Orr, Merchant of Randalstown, to Miss Stewart of Harphall.

Down....*Died* At Dromore, Mrs. Margaret Burdy. At Culteavy, Francis Montgomery esq. aged 50. Mrs. Pinkerton, aged 27, relict of the late Mr. J. Pinkerton of this town, merchant. Mr. J. Townley aged 22 years, son of S. Townley esq. an eminent Merchant. At Holywood, Master J. Butler, aged 8 years,

Married...Mr. T. Trouten merchant, to Miss Creek of Downpatrick. On the 14th instant Mr. T. Stewart, esq. to Miss Thron, of Thronbrook. Mr. W. Clandinning, to Miss Marshall. Mr. R. Walker, of Ballyrickard, to Miss Mary Close. At Donaghadee, John Armstrong, aged 45, to Jane M'Auley (her fifth husband) aged 90, with a fortune of 500*l*. The bride cannot undress without an assistant.*

Mr. J. Bradshaw, Linen draper, to Miss Gardiner of Magherabeg. Mr. T. Sharrock of Downpatrick, to Miss Mary Bingham.

Londonderry....*Married*....Mr. J. Duncan, to Miss Jane Agnew of Rowansgift. Lieut. G. H. Nugent, of the Royal Dublin Militia, to Miss Ramage of this city. Mr. J. Ball to Miss Johnston of New-Walk.

LEINSTER.

Dublin....*Died*....In Grafton-street, the wife of Mr. Robert Richey.

Married....T. Flood of Exeter, esq. to Miss Moore, daughter of the late Ross Moore of Carlingford, esq.

Meath....*Died*.....aged 88 years, Mrs. Jones, relict of T. Jones of Vesington, esq. and mother of the Patentee and proprietor of the Theatre Royal Crow-street.

MUNSTER.

Cork....*Married*...At Doncraile, Henry Miller esq. of the 40th regiment, to Miss Jane Morphet of Mallow. Major Shilling of the 81st regiment to Miss Elizabeth Carrol of Askeen, county Tipperary. J. Milner Barry esq. to Miss Phair of Millview.

* After the ceremony, the Bride held up her left hand, and with much sang froid remarked, I have already got a wedding ring for each of these four fingers and now I have one for my thumb.

BRITISH.

At the late meeting of the Holderness Agricultural Society at Heden, the following question was proposed for discussion:—"As various kinds of birds, viz. rooks, pigeons, sparrows, &c. are denounced as mortal enemies to agriculturists, and their extermination is eagerly sought for; do not the benefits they bestow, by devouring insects, more than balance the injuries they commit by devouring corn? And would it not be to the advantage of agriculturists to promote the increase of those birds which destroy insects but do not destroy the corn, viz. lapwings, starlings, thrushes, &c.?" A gentleman of the society, who has deservedly acquired considerable reputation in the agricultural world, for his well-contrived experiments as to the most effectual mode of destroying the grub or larva of the Tipula, or Tommy long Legs, detailed the result of a very curious experiment which he instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the number of these insects which a nest of rooks may probably consume annually. One of his servants was stationed a whole day, from one o'clock in the morning to eight at night, in the neighbourhood of a rookery, and kept an accurate account of the number of times which the old crows, during that interval, fed their young ones. The average result of his observations on five nests was, that the old crows made 70 journeys per day; and it having been ascertained by shooting one of them, just before its entry into the nest, that it had in the bag below its beak 33 grubs; it follows, that supposing them to feed on these insects through the year, a family of rooks would, in that time, destroy 1,445,500 grubs. And supposing, which is a very moderate calculation, that each grub, previous to its assuming the winged state, destroys the herbage of four square inches, this number would consume the herbage of three roods twenty-seven perches. Hence the ingenious contriver of this admirable experiment, inferred the immense advantage which the farmer derives from this species of bird alone, without whose benignant service, added to those of its congeners, the toil of the agriculturist would be in vain. Another member of the society produced the crop of a pigeon lately shot, in which were not more than a few grains of wheat and a bean or two, its principal contents being the seeds of ketlocks, and other noxious weeds. After an interesting discussion, the company agreed in the affirmative on both parts of the question. Several specimens of prepared whalebone, which it is proposed to apply in the manufacture of *sieves, riddles and sheep-nets*, were afterwards exhibited.

A correspondent of the Norfolk Chronicle offers the following preservative against the insects, termed by farmers,

green lice, by which, the crops of peas have for several years been greatly injured in this county. Take a chaldron of fresh burnt lime, unload it in the field where it is to be used, make a floor and spread alternately a layer of lime and a layer of moist sand, or fine earth; when the lime is expended, round up the whole in a heap, and in about sixteen hours it will be fit to turn over; and if the whole of the lime is found to be slackened, and in a fine powdered state, it is then proper for immediate use. The dressing the crop, is performed by two men, a a boy, a cart, and a horse; when the cart is loaded, it is moved slowly in the furrows, (always against the wind) whilst the two men with corn shovels cast the lime right and left, much in the same manner as they cast corn, observing to take a small quantity in the shovel at a time. This operation should be performed early in the morning upon a heavy dew, or after a gentle shower of rain, taking care to powder or dust all the plants slightly over; when it will be found that the caustic quality of the lime will have destroyed the insects, without the smallest injury to the crop: on the contrary it will very much improve it.—A chaldron of lime the writer conceives will cover several acres. The same application is equally destructive to the slug and small white snail, on the young clovers, &c. in the spring, and infinitely more efficacious than Mr. Vagg's system of night rolling. This system might be properly applied on the smaller scale in *gardens* infected by these insects.

A surprising proof of the degree of perfection to which the staple manufacture of that country is brought, was lately afforded at Leicester. A gentleman, travelling for a house at Norwich, exhibited a pair of worsted stockings, of a texture so remarkably fine, that the pair together has been drawn through a wedding ring of an ordinary size. The idea of the singular delicacy of the manufacture will be assisted by the information, that an order was given by a respectable wholesale house in Leicester, for a dozen of pair, at the price of *a guinea and a half a pair.*

The committee of the Kennel and Avon Canal, met a few days since at Great Bedwin, and proceeded from thence to inspect the works under execution, through the tunnel at Bunbage to Devizes; the next morning they walked down Devizes-hill, (about two miles) to inspect the building of the locks to Foxhanger, where they again embarked, and were conveyed by Andras's packet-boat, to their wharf, at Sydney garden. The committee were attended by a few of the very large proprietors; and they had all the highest satisfaction to find the wharfs already finished and in a state of great perfection, and those under execution, rapidly approaching to completion. It is confidently expected that in two years, the whole of this stupendous national concern will be accomplished, and thus afford a direct water communication between Bristol, Bath, and the Metropolis.

At a meeting of the Hertfordshire Agricultural Society, woollen yarn was produced, spun by Mary Bowdelly, aged sixty, living in that county. It was considered by competent judges to exceed any thing before known in that country, as a specimen of skill and industry. She had spun a pound of Merina Wool into yarn so fine, that it measured in length twenty-nine miles, and two hundred yards. It was greatly admired for the beauty and silky softness of its texture.

ANTIQUITIES....A curious piece of antiquity has lately been discovered in the church-yard of Hemel-Hempsted, Hertfordshise.—In digging a vault for a young lady of the name of Warren, the sexton, when he had excavated the earth about four feet below the surface of the ground, found his spade to strike against something solid, which, upon inspection he found to be a large wrought stone, which proved to be the lid of a coffin, and under it the coffin entire, which was afterwards taken up in perfect condition; but the bones contained therein, on being exposed to the air, crumbled to dust. On the lid of the coffin is an inscription, partly effaced by time, but still sufficiently legible, decidedly to prove it contained the ashes of the celebrated Offa, King of the Mercians, who rebuilt the abbey of St. Alban's, and died in the eighth century.

The coffin is about six and a half feet long, containing a niche, or resting place for the head, and also a groove on each side for the arms, likewise for the legs; it is curiously carved, and altogether *unique* of the kind. The curate of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Bingham, has deposited it in a house adjacent to the church-yard, where the curious are flocking daily and hourly to see it, on whom he levies a contribution of one shilling each for such indulgence. The church was built in the seventh century. The Watling-street road runs within a mile of this place, and many Roman coins have lately been found in the vicinity, particularly while digging for the Grand Junction Canal.

FIRE OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

On the 20th, at about four o'clock in the morning the Theatre at Covent Garden was discovered to be on fire. Before any assistance could be afforded, the flames had broken out in all parts, more than an hour having elapsed before a supply of water could be procured, although the fire engines attended at the first alarm. Even when they could be brought to act, the violence of the flames rendered all their efforts useless. The flames extended to several adjoining streets; but in consequence of the unremitting exertions of the firemen, and volunteers who had assembled at the first alarm, the devastation did not extend so far as might have been feared.

Several lives were lost on this occasion. Among others, a number of firemen and labourers who were serving an engine in the interior of the building, were overwhelmed by part of the roof. Two females also who were viewing the progress of the conflagration from the roof of a neighbouring house, unconscious that the fire was at that very time raging in the lower parts of it, were destroyed by its sudden fall.

The number of lives lost is not yet ascertained, but is supposed to have been upwards of fifty. The loss is very great; upwards of £150,000 of which not a third part was insured; several of the performers and persons employed about the house have also suffered in their properties.

A subscription has been set on foot for the relief of the families of those who fell victims to their zeal on this melancholy occasion.

The cause of this catastrophe has not been fully ascertained; but it is generally supposed to have originated from the wadding of a gun discharged behind the scenes during the performance of Pizarro, which had been acted the preceding evening.

MONTHLY AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Finding it impossible to finish our Reports, if delayed to the last day of the month, we have thought it better, after the example of some other publications, that in future, they should terminate on the 20th of each month.

The fine weather that set in so seasonably in the latter part of the month of August, was soon succeeded by a good deal of rain accompanied with high winds, which beat down the strong crops of grain and considerably encreased the injury they had sustained by the former wet weather; a favourable change has enabled the farmers to cut down their crops in pretty good time, and the harvest is now generally over and the grain secured.

It is now pretty fully ascertained that the wheat has been generally injured by mildew, and is much inferior in quality, as well as quantity, to the average of other years, and in all probability will bring a high price.

The oat crops seldom appeared more abundant when standing in the stook, and yet it is generally believed the produce will prove far short of what might have been expected from so great a bulk. Although the quality is certainly inferior to last year's produce, there seems no reason to apprehend such a deficiency as to occasion the price to be unusually high.

Barley turns out a good average crop in most places.

The potatoe crop is much improved in quality since last report, and as it is likely to be very productive, we trust there will be an abundant supply of that valuable and nutritious root, which forms so considerable a part of the sustenance of the inhabitants of this country.

From the trials that have been made of the flax of this year, there is much reason to fear that there will be a great deficiency of the usual quantity; in many districts it is thought there will not be more than one-half of the produce of other years, and the price has risen considerably in consequence of the apprehended scarcity. The failure of this crop may be principally attributed to its being pulled before it had attained a proper degree of ripeness, and its afterwards remaining too long on the grass for want of dry weather to take it up.

The turnip crops that were not cut off at an early stage of their growth, continue to root well, and will probably furnish a large supply of winter food. It would be a favourable circumstance for the country if they were more generally cultivated; the extensive culture of that valuable root by the English and Scotch farmers, holds out an example highly deserving our imitation.

The sowing of wheat has already commenced in various parts of the country, and if the weather continues favourable, as it now is, no time ought to be lost in putting the work forward; the early sowing generally succeeds best, as it affords time for the plants to be well established in the ground before the frost comes on, which frequently throws the roots out.

We know that the common mode of sowing wheat after the potatoe crop is removed, is against such early sowing as we recommend, and which is very generally practised in England on fallows; but in some districts in Ireland where fallow is made use of, there is nothing to prevent early sowing, but an opinion which prevails among many farmers, that it is time enough if wheat is sown during the dark of the moon before Christmas. This practice we would particularly wish to discourage; and if it is not in the power of the farmer to have his ground in a condition fit for sowing before the middle of November, we have reason to think it would be much better to defer even to the beginning of March, as the seed would then escape the season when little vegetation takes place, and during which it is liable to be injured by wet. Nothing is to be apprehended from this delay, as we can speak confidently from experience, that it does not delay the ripening above ten days or a fortnight, and the farmer stands a great chance of getting the seed sown on dry ground, a matter of more importance than is generally imagined even to succeeding crops.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The war against commerce still continues, though the ports of Holland have unexpectedly been permitted to be opened for the exportation of many articles of their produce, while smalts and some other commodities are said to be still continued under prohibition. Some accounts state that the British administration will not permit the trade of exportation to be carried on by the Dutch, unless they will allow the importation of manufactures from this country in return. The occasion of Bonaparte's permitting the Dutch ports to be partially opened for exportation appears not to be known.

The embargo imposed on her shipping by America still continues, and in all probability will continue till after the meeting of Congress in November, and we are not without grounds for apprehension that this measure, which they deem a wise precaution to keep them out of war, may be still farther persisted in. The embargo, if persevered in, though it is likely to injure their foreign commerce, will also probably cause them to become a manufacturing nation, some years earlier than they would otherwise have attempted. Flax and cotton grow in great abundance in America, and it is said that the breed of sheep is rapidly extending. The mutual restrictions on commerce which it is now becoming the short-sighted policy of nations to retaliate on each other, will have a tendency to force trade into new channels, by which some will be gainers while others are losers. Through all, the Philanthropist rests in the pleasing confidence that the powers of annoyance are not so great as the capabilities of doing good. Nations by their foolish policy may destroy some sources of trade; but new ones in spite of all their blunders, will arise to supply their place. The madness of mankind by their wars, may desolate the fair face of a country; but this waste will ere long be supplied by the bountiful hand of nature, and fully restored to its pristine beauty. Let it not be said these remarks are misapplied in a commercial report; they naturally arise out of the subject, and on all occasions it may be allowed to show that the evils which man introduces into the world, are counteracted by the beneficent laws of our nature. Yet the philosophy of commerce to regulate the conduct of nations or of individuals, is more an object for benevolent wishes than present expectation.

But to return, and leaving a further detail of causes, to consider effects.

Trade is in its nature subject to fluctuation; but the uncertainty of it is considerably increased by the interference of hostile governments; and thus speculation is introduced, which though it turn to the gain of some, is attended with many unpleasant effects. There is a danger of trade turning into a species of gambling, and becoming subject to all the varieties and vicissitudes of a lottery speculation. Thus, whether pot-ashes, cotton, and the other articles of American produce, will rise or fall, depends on the decision of Congress, and the new president of America.

The price of wine, barilla, and other Spanish and Portuguese productions, depends on the uncertain events of the war in these countries. The same causes operate in regard to the manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland; if the fortune of war is in favour of British arms, the prices of our various manufactures will probably rise from the demand for them in those countries, which may be subject to our influence. On such

uncertain data, the sellers and purchasers must calculate in their respective transactions. In time of war, articles in the hands of the merchants usually rise from the encreasing difficulties of trade, by which they are gainers; but in the event of a peace, or if the present commercial restrictions on trade be removed, the holders will be likely to be losers.

On the subject of last month's report there is little new to state. The few interested in the traffic of guineas, are likely to keep up the prejudices in their favour for some time longer. In the market of Lisburn, most of the fine linens are now bought for bank-notes. In Belfast the alteration in the mode of paying for linens will probably be more slow, though its ultimately taking place there, it is presumed, is equally certain.

In the present state of our circulating medium in this country, guineas can scarcely be considered in any other view than as tools in the hands of money-jobbers, which they do not fail to turn to their own advantage. The quantity of them in circulation is so small, that the exchange on English bills is affected by a few thousand guineas being periodically withdrawn, at the time of the assizes, by the treasurer of the counties of Antrim and Down; and in one instance last year, exchange fell in the course of about one week from 1½ to 2 per cent, in consequence of a loan being made in Belfast, to one of the great landed proprietors in the neighbourhood. These fluctuations, show the impolicy of confining ourselves to a medium so limited as guineas now form, as such an occurrence could not have happened if the circulating medium had been adequate to the purposes for which it is required. During last month the gold exchange fluctuated from 5¾ to 6¾ per cent, and the discount on bank notes from 4¼ to 3½, making a higher rate with the exchange and discount added together than the bank note currency at Dublin for English bills, which average about 9½ per cent. The Belfast remitter consequently paid a higher exchange for the bills he had occasion to take, and he might as well have done so in the first instance, as in the circuitous mode in which it was accomplished.

We have in this part of the country, four or five different kinds of circulating mediums; guineas, bank silver coinage, dollars, bank of Ireland notes, and the notes of private bankers, all bearing different relative values, and tending to render every sort of bargaining more complicated and difficult.

Guineas are of great advantage to those who discount in gold; but it is not reasonable to expect the many will continue to be so blinded to their own interest, as not to see the disadvantages and perplexities attending a mode of payment so limited in extent as the remnant of our gold currency must now necessarily be, and in the management of which the knowing commercial financier has such a decided advantage.

American pot-ashes after declining a little in price, are now rather looking up—Barilla keeps without advance—Cotton Wool is scarce, and by accounts from Liverpool, considerably advancing in price—Sugar is expected to advance, as soon as the distiller comes into the market to purchase for distillation. Letters from Holland state that they have had there a good crop of flax this year. If the Dutch ports are allowed to be kept open, we may receive from them a seasonable supply to make up the deficiency of the flax crop in this country.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from 28th August till 28th September.

Barometer.....highest		30	44	Thermometer.....highest		68	40
mean		29	88	mean		62	10
lowest		29	34	lowest		56	00
Synocha	2	An inflammatory fever....not infectious.					
Typhus	2	Nervous, or infectious fever.					
Synochus	3	Of a mixed nature, between typhus and synocha.					
Cynanche Tonsillaris	2	Quinsy.					
Erysipelas	1	Saint Anthony's fire, or Rose.					
Variola	12	Small-pox.					
Rubeola	1	Measles.					
Varicella	2	Chicken-pox.					
Opthalmia	3	Inflammation of the eyes.					
Rheumatismus	3	Rheumatism.					
Abortus	2	Abortion.					

Psora	4	Itch.
Herpes	3	Ringworm, tetter, &c.
Icterus	1	Jaundice.
Asthma	3	Asthma, or shortness of breath.
Dyspepsia	4	Indigestion.
Asthenia	3	Nervous-debility.
Cholera Morbus . .	4	Excessive vomiting and purging.
Dysenteria	2	Flux.
Diarrhœa	2	Liquid stools.
Pthysis Pulmonaris	1	Consumption of the lungs.
Mania	1	Madness.
Scrophula	3	King's Evil.
Hepatitis Chronicus	1	Slow inflammation of the liver.
Syphilis	5	Venereal disease.
Gonorrhœa	4	
Morbi Infantiles . .	24	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

In looking on the present report, the friends of humanity will be justly alarmed and disappointed, when they behold that loathsome and dangerous disease, the Small-pox, exhibit itself so extensively, a disease that it was most sanguinely to be hoped, would, in a few years, be erased from the catalogue of human calamities. Where are our Vaccinators? What have they done for society? will be the cry of the enemies of that most important discovery (vaccine inoculation) and which will be re-echoed with equal vehemence by the unthinking and ignorant. Cease, cease, your clamours, ye foes of mankind, and know that it is owing to an unaccountable apathy and neglect, principally in the lower classes, that the present pestilence ravages the country, marking its progress with death and deformity, and not to any want of *efficacy* in *cow-pox* nor *zeal* in its propagators, an apathy from which it is to be feared nothing will rouse mankind to a true sense of the passing danger, but the strong hand of legislative interference.....If the Reporter's experience can have any weight in removing doubts, he will say that he has inoculated above one thousand with cow-pox, and after inoculating above fifty of these with small-pox, some once, some twice, and in a few cases four times, in no one instance were any of them affected with the disease. With respect to the two cases of chicken-pox, there was an attempt in both instances to communicate the disease, but without success, this however is not much to be regretted as it is usually of so mild a nature as to require little interference.....Scarlatina has for several months assumed a mild character, and has now nearly, if not altogether disappeared. Does this in any degree confirm the observation of Sydenham, that most diseases were swallowed up or absorbed by the reigning epidemic?

NATURALIST'S REPORT,

From the 27th of August till the 20th of September.

1. Swift (Hirundo Apus) White Rumped Martin (H. urbica) Sand Martin (H. riparia) and Willow Wren (Motacilla Trochilus) have disappeared.

3. Hooded Water Milfoil (Utricularia vulgaris) flowering.

4. Superb Pink (Dianthus superbus) and Colchicum or Naked Robin (Colchicum autumnale) flowering.

7. Robin Redbreast (Motacilla rubecola) and Woodlark (Alauda arborea) are now adding to the pleasures of our rural walks, and supplying the loss of our numerous vernal warblers, by their highly interesting music.

9. Strawberry Tree (Arbutus Unedo) flowering. Swallows mostly gone.

10. Red Chelone (Chelone obliqua) and Althea Frutex (Hibiscus Syriacus) flowering. Phalæna Libatrix. Don. Brit. In. 216. Called Herald Moth by the English Collectors of Insects, being among the last which appears, and marking the approach of winter.

13. Clethra (Clethra Anifolia) flowering.

15. The Bernicle (Anus Bernicla) were observed this day in Belfast Lough by many people, but some supposed they saw them seven or eight days previous to this. An opinion has been long prevalent that these birds arrived regularly on Ballynure fair day, viz. the 4th of September, and left us on the fair day of the same place, held on the 15th of May. *(Popular errors are frequently founded on pretty correct observations of nature, but the observers, as in this case, fail in tracing the effects from legitimate causes.)*

17. Changeable Star Flower (Aster mutabilis) flowering.

20. Common Wigeon (Anas Penelope) for sale in the Belfast market.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT,

From the 27th of August till the 20th of September.

In our last Report we wished to call the attention of our Readers to observing the course of thunder clouds, in order that, if possible, some judgment might be formed of the succeeding weather. From our own observations no conclusion can at present be drawn: two brilliant days succeeded; but on the 30th and 31st a considerable quantity of rain fell, and though we have had many fine days, the weather has not been settled to any particular kind.

On the 1st of September, Slight showers.
2, ... Slight showers and sunshine.
4, ... Pleasant dry day.
5, 6, 7, . . . Slight showers.
8, ... Heavy showers.
9, ... Brilliant and breezy day.
10, ... Brilliant—a few drops of rain at about five P. M.
11, ... Brilliant.
12, ... Misty rain about 9 A. M.—rest of the day dry.
13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Brilliant days.
19, ... Dark morning with a gentle shower—afterwards a fine pleasant day.
20, ... Misty morning, with an appearance of having been frosty.

The Barometer has this month ranged uncommonly high, the lowest state was 29. 1. on Thursday the 8th, at noon; and on Friday the 16th, it was as high as 30. 3. through the day.

The Thermometer has been also high for the season. On the morning of the 5th, at 8 A. M. it was at 60.; on the 17th, at 3 P. M. it was as high as 65. and throughout the month we have never observed it lower than 53. which it was on the 8th. The wind during this period has been observed in the North, 7 times—South, 8—East, 15—West, 8 times.

At about 7½ P. M. on Saturday the 17th of September, a gentleman going down the shore road, from Belfast towards Carrickfergus, having passed the gate of Mr. Thomson's avenue, at Jennymount, and reached the corner where the road first reaches the shore, felt himself suddenly, as when exposed to the air of a heated oven, and perceived a considerable illumination, rather superior to the brightest moonlight, it being a dark night, and immediately after felt a strong sulphureous smell; on advancing as far as Mr. Wm. Simms' Porter's Lodge, he met a person, who inquired if he had seen the falling star, and described it as observed by himself on coming round Mr. Woolsey's point, to have been a large luminous body descending slowly from the northward, and disappearing precisely at the spot where the gentleman had seen the illumination and felt the sulphureous smell and heat. It appeared first near the Cave-hill; was, he thinks, more than a minute in view, and considerably larger than Jupiter, which he pointed to, and which, that night, was remarkably bright.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

OCTOBER, 1808.

On the first day of the month the Moon passes our meridian at 25 min. past 10 o'clock, afternoon, having above her, but a little to the west of the meridian, the four small stars in the Water-pot; and north of her, a little to the east of the meridian, at the distance of 16° is Markab, and at 29° is Scheat, two bright stars of the second magnitude, in Pegasus. South of her, near the horizon, but east of the meridian, is Fomalhaut. Jupiter is under her, a little east of the meridian, and at the distance of about 6¼ degrees.

Fifth day, she rises a little after six; before midnight, she passes the line drawn through the second and third of the Ram, and, as she mounts the heavens, we may perceive her nearly in the line between the third of Pegasus and the lowest of the four stars in the square, and first of the Whale.

Tenth day, she rises about half past nine; as she ascends the heavens, we may observe around her the beautiful stars in the Twins; the Bull, Orion and the Waggoner: at 9, she is 5½° 14′ from the first of the Ram.

Fifteenth day, she rises about three in the morning, and is soon followed by Mars and the first of the Lion, which will form with her a pleasing object to the nocturnal traveller.

Twentieth day, she rises at half past eight morning, having been new Moon the preceding day, at which time was an eclipse of the Sun, but invisible here.

Twenty-fifth day, she passes the meridian, three minutes past six, evening, being in a line between the small stars in the head of the Archer and the two first of the Goat; the former being below her to the east, and the latter above her to the west of the meridian. Above her, nearly due north, at the distance of 24°, is the beautiful star Athair in the neck of the Eagle.

Thirtieth day, she passes the meridian at fifty-six minutes past nine, above her, to the north, at the distance of 11°, is Algenib, a bright star, in the wing of Pegasus, and at 25° the bright star in the head of Andromeda. Jupiter and Fomalhaut being considerably to the west of the meridian.

Mercury is an evening star, but so near the horizon when the Sun sets, that he will be seldom seen: the Moon passes him on the twenty-first.

Venus is an evening star, and on the first is very near Mercury, she appears every succeeding night to be higher above the horizon, but is still too near it to be frequently seen, till about the end of the month.

Mars, is a morning star, being seen at first to the west of the first star of the Lion, which he passes on the eleventh, at the distance of 1°, the star, being to the south of him. The moon passes him on the fifteenth.

Jupiter, passes our meridian on the first, at 40 minutes past 10 at night, and on the 25th at five minutes past nine, having a retrograde motion through 1¼ degrees; near him is the 11th star of the Water-bearer, and to the west of him the four small stars in the Water-pot....The Moon passes him on the 21st.

Saturn is an evening star, being seen after dark in the south-west, but near the horizon ...the Moon passes him on the 21st.

Herschell is a morning star, but too near the Sun to be seen, being in conjunction with him on the 28th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Emersions.*				3d SATELLITE.					4th SATELLITE.				
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	
1	6	48	17	3	16	37	44	6	14	34	23	Im.	6	4	0	12	Im.
3	1	17	11	7	5	55	40		17	44	14	E.		7	56	21	E.
4	19	45	59	10	19	13	35	13	18	36	19	Im.	22	22	19	50	Im.
6	14	14	55	14	8	31	29		21	45	14	E.	23	2	9	23	E.
8	8	43	44	17	21	49	23	20	22	38	40	Im.					
10	3	12	40	21	11	7	17	21	1	46	42	E.					
11	21	41	31	25	0	25	10	28	2	41	14	Im.					
13	16	10	28	28	13	43	3		5	48	23	E.					
15	10	39	19														
17	5	8	17														
18	23	37	9														
20	18	6	7														
22	12	35	0														
24	7	4	0														
26	1	32	53														
27	20	1	54														
29	14	30	48														
31	8	59	49														

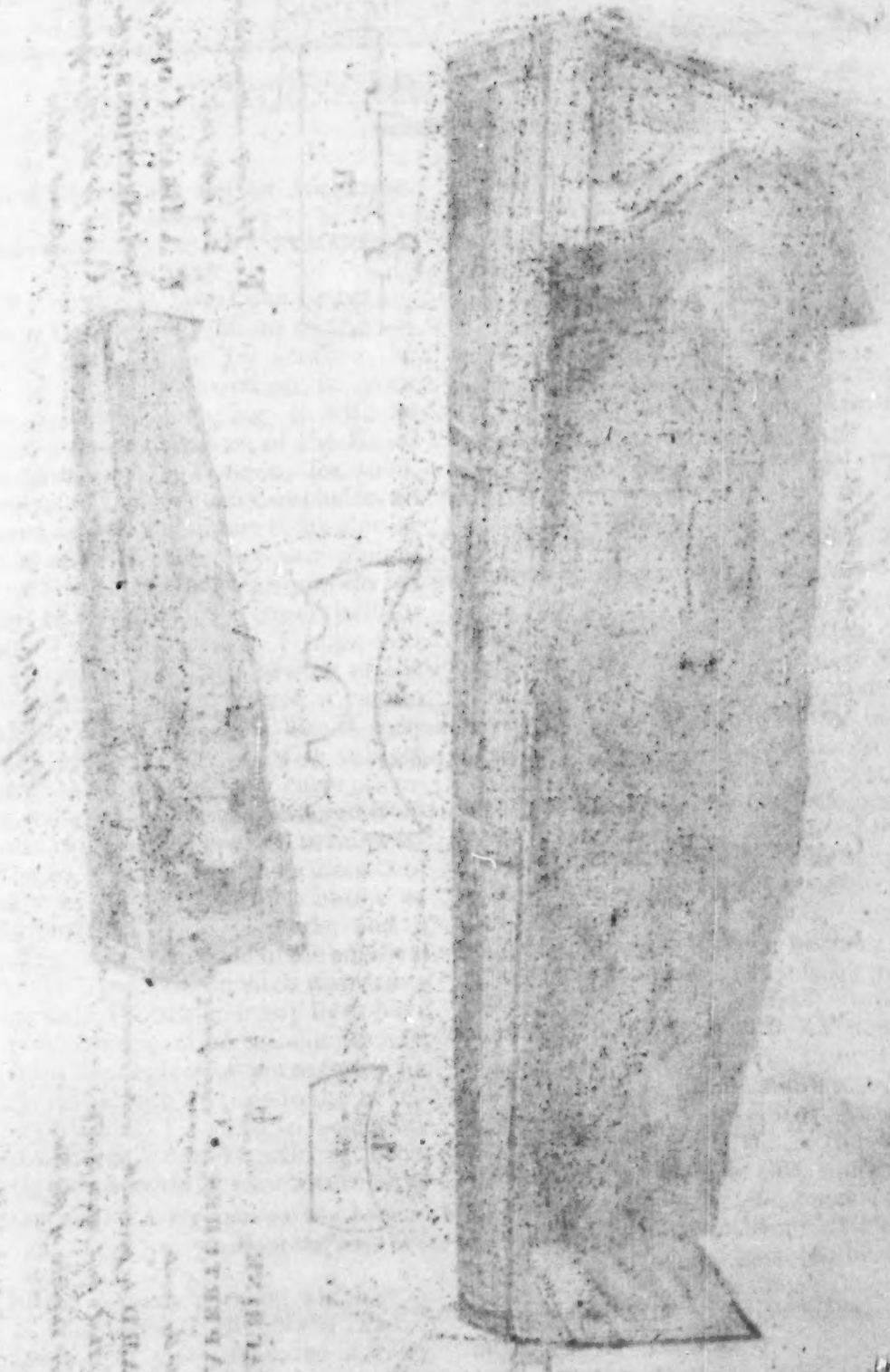
N. B. *We have, agreeably to the intimation of our respected Correspondent X. of Newry, added to our Astronomical Report, the Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites for this month, which are universally acknowledged to be the best means for ascertaining the longitude of the different places on the Globe. These Eclipses are calculated for the latitude and meridian of Greenwich.*

ERRATA IN NO. I.

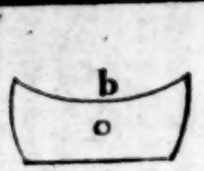
Page 10, 1st column, line 16, from the bottom, dele *n* in *annemier*—p. 32, col. 2d, l. 12 from the top, for *ore*, read air—same page and col. l. 8 from the bottom, for *detanation*, read detonation.

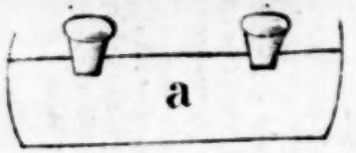
ERRATA IN NO. II.

Page 99, col. 2d, line 24 from the bottom of the page, dele the period after the word master—p. 90, col. 2d, line 23d from the bottom, for *doubts* read doubt—p. 116, col. 1st, l. 5 from top, for *Phil. Mag.* read Philosophical Magazine—p. 149, last line but one of the poetry, for *twill*, read shall.—p. 145, col. 2d, l. 16 from the top, for *Dundas*, read Dundee.—p. 153, col. 2d, l. 18 from the bottom, dele in.



Adult Couchette





A. *The* **Machine**

B.B. *Two* **Apertures** *for conveying water to the inside.*

C. **A Guard** *to prevent the water running upon the Body laid upon the Tin.*

D. *The upper surface of the Tin.*

E. *The cavity continued in order to give heat to the feet.*

F. **A Brass Cock** *to let off the water*

a & b. **Sections** *of the* **Machine**

C. *One of the Tin supporters soldered within*

Infants

UNIV.
LIB.
CAMB.